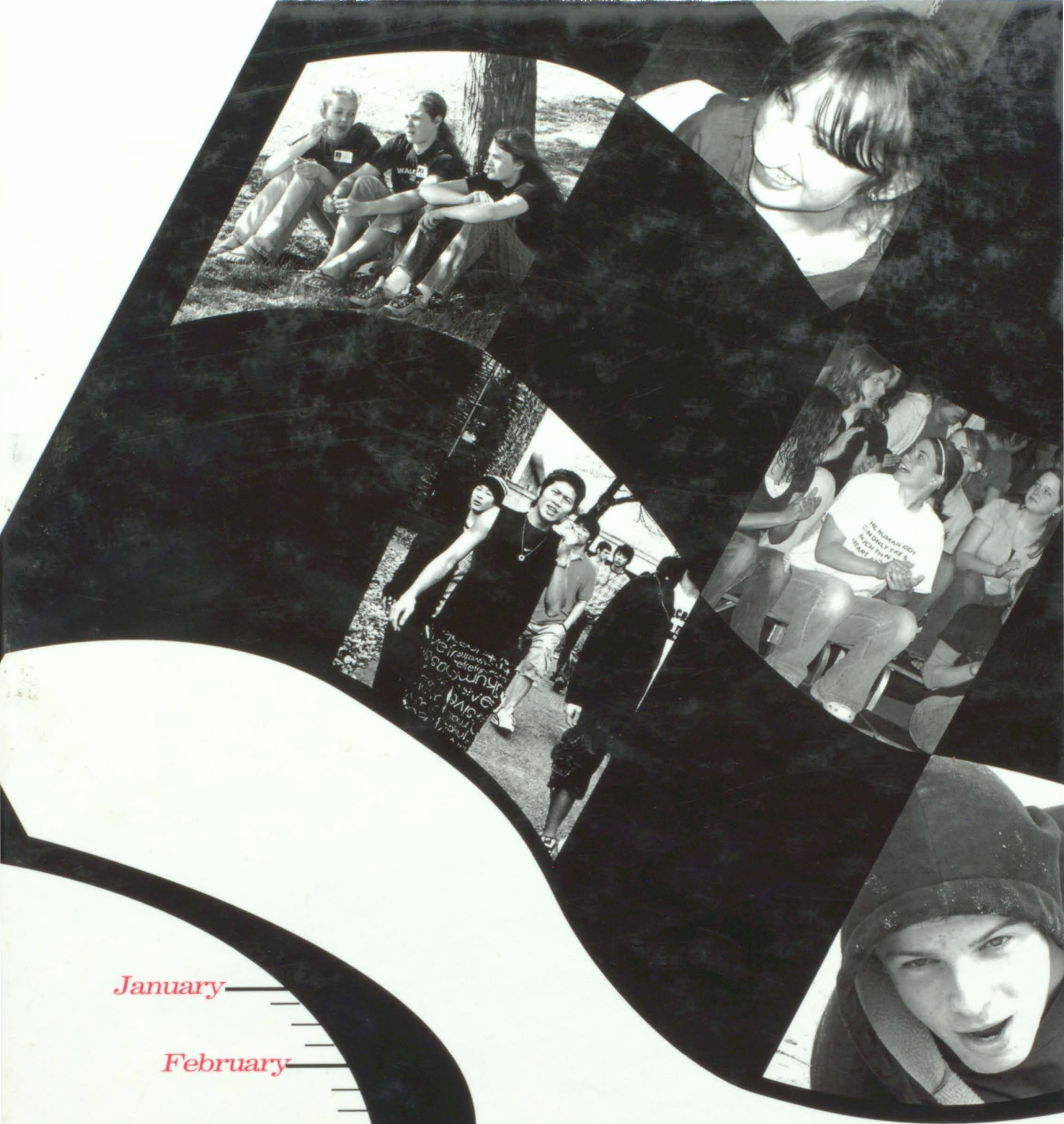


January

February

March

April

May

06

Shifting Gears

Shifting Gears

2005-2006

Nebraska Christian School
1847 Inskip Avenue
Central City, NE 68826
(308) 946-3836
fax (308) 946-3837
nebraskachristian.org
enrollment: P-6: 47/7-12: 155

Opening:
Life Shifts Gears
Pages 2-3

People and Academics:
On your mark. Get set. Get to class!
Pages 4-33

Sports:
Cruising Down Glory Road
Pages 34-53

Student Life:
Breaking Out of the Rut
Pages 54-63

Activities:
Going the Extra Mile
Pages 64-75

Ads:
Racing Sponsors
Pages 76-79

Index:
Racing Fans
Pages 80-81

Closing:
Coming to a Halt
Pages 82-83

Juniors study algebra together during study time in history class. Those who understood the current lesson tried to enlighten their classmates before the quiz during the next period.

***Tim Coleman** tries to encourage **Caden Huenefeld** during a special skit performed for the entire student body in chapel. Mrs. Barb Hoff's speech class wrote, practiced, and performed the skit which was a big hit with the students. The group also gave performances during choir tours.*

*Elementary children happily sing and jump with their new elementary music teacher, **Mr. Mike Flynn**. The class took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and played outside while learning the joy of music.*

*Making spirit posters to encourage the volleyball team, freshmen **Elizabeth Griess** and **Karrah Miller** stretch out on the floor in the west hall of the gym building during Homecoming week. As members of the team, they knew the importance of encouragement.*

*Enjoying the fall weather on the playground, **Celeste Hattan** checks papers for Mrs. Sandi Griepenstroh.*

Throughout life, every person will experience change an infinite number of times. Without warning, life can suddenly and abruptly shift gears. Everything that was once customary can change in an instant, and all that remains are memories from the past.

Yearbooks are made as a holding place for these memories, so that in the future, students can look back and remember the good, the bad, and the ugly from each school year. But what makes each school year stand out? What is unique from one school year to the next? It is the responsibility of the yearbook staff to choose a theme that addresses these important questions for each year. In '05-'06, "Shifting Gears" provided an answer to those questions.

What made the year stand out? The school changed in several ways. Some of changes were the administration came under new leadership, the board discussed plans for a new school building to house the high school in the future, each school week only had four days, and dress-up day was abolished. The student body felt the changes throughout, and though not all agreed with every adjustment, most could agree that the school shifted into a brighter future.

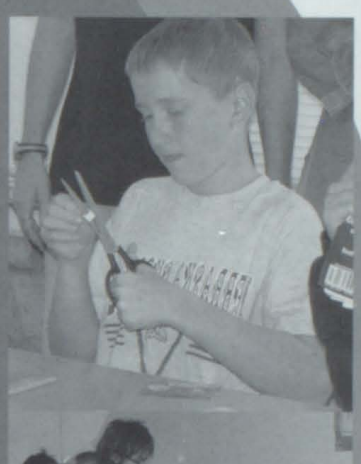
As this yearbook races from page to page, the changes and the standard activities represented blend into a complete picture of one school year. This yearbook shows that the changes that come when life "shifts gears" are something that should be remembered forever.

-Bill Griepenstroh, Editor

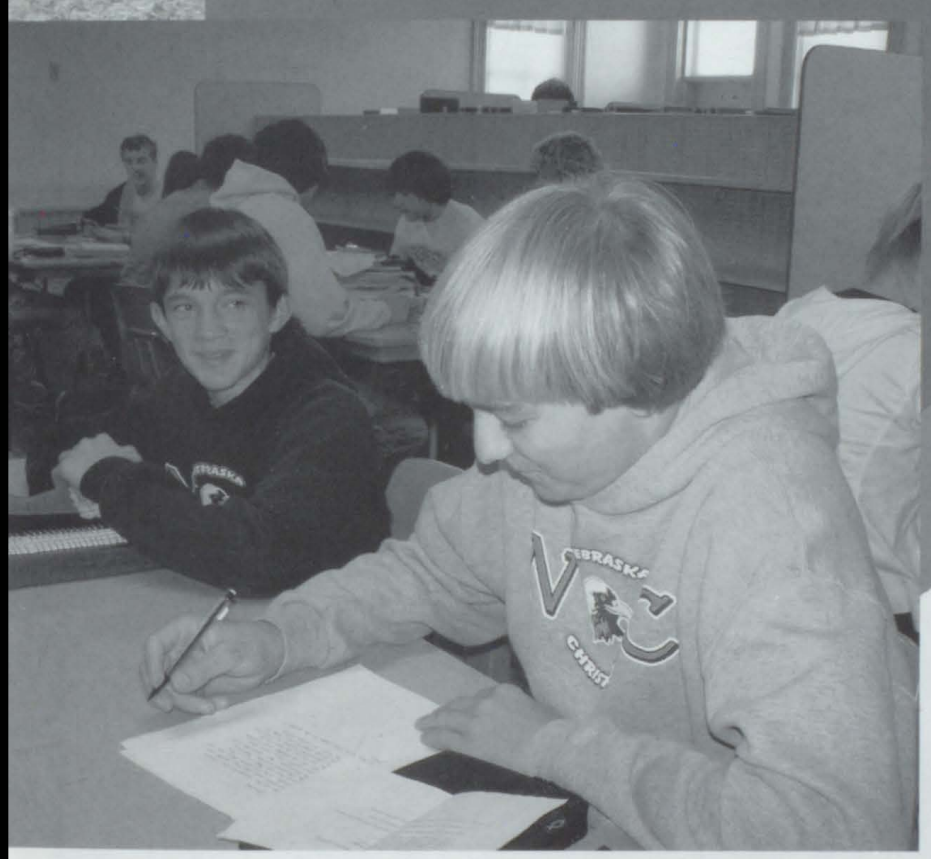
Life at N.C. Shifts Gears

"The cowboy hat helped me to type better."
-Brittney Shepherd

Left- During an intense game of kickball at Spiritual Emphasis Day, **Amy Thiessen** *rounds third base and races towards home. Unfortunately, the ball was already headed her direction and she was thrown out shortly thereafter.*
Below- A group of 3rd and 4th grade students decide to make the walk back to class after art a little more exciting. They all joined in a kickline led by **Scott Smith.**



Left- **Scott Ritta** *works diligently on his art project. "Art is a nice break from some of our harder classes," he said.*



Left- International students **Jamie Li, Shan Yu,** *and* **Jinny Lee** *participate in a blindfolded taste test during 3rd hour ESL Science. They used solutions such as lemon juice and sugar water to test different areas of taste buds on the tongue.*

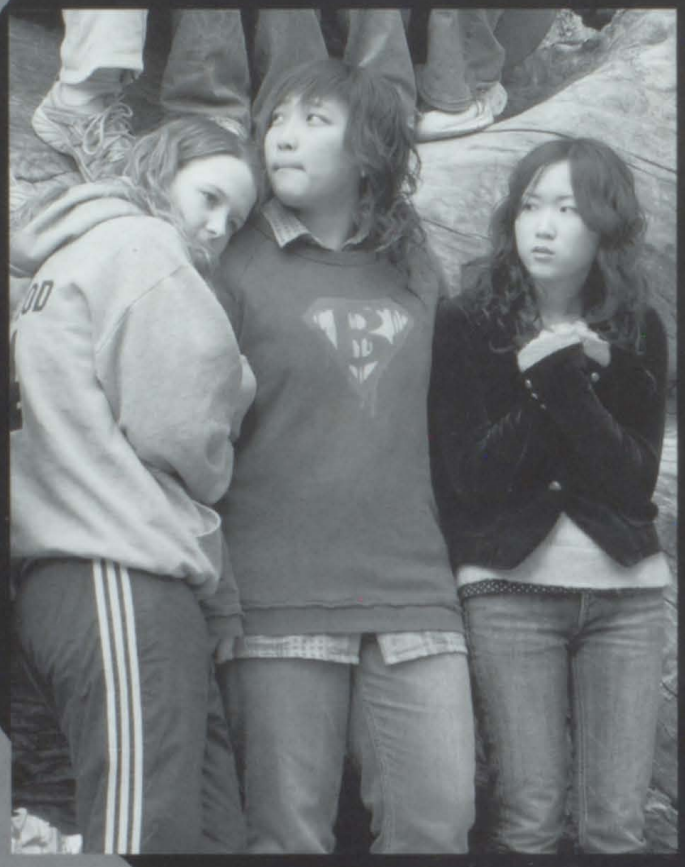
Left- Kill the flies! While working in concessions, **Josh Bailey** *goes on the prowl looking to destroy every cursed fly he comes across. The junior class got to use the new concessions facility near the football field for the first time last fall. It was spacious, well-lit, and full of flies.*

Above- **Wes Kembel** *attempts to distract* **Zach Troester** *as he diligently works on his Bible summary. Under silent study hall rules, Wes could have received a detention.*

On your mark.. Get set. Get to class.

Students, on your marks. Get set...

Ah, the beginning of a new school year. Minds, which had been idling all summer long, began to roar (or screech, or sputter) into life as they were once again ignited in the classroom. With mingled feelings of regret for a summer gone and eager anticipation for the year ahead, students prepared for the race that they knew could be grueling. Go! The green flag waved, and the year took off.



As the weeks raced by, kids at NC found that the schedules they were speeding through, like the NC track, were dotted with a few potholes (perhaps even a few Grand Canyons). Students had to adjust to a new four-day school week and to the loss of backpacks. "It makes my back hurt, and it makes me feel unorganized," Abby Perez said about lugging her books around. The adjustment to the four-day school week went over better. "Sleeping in has never felt better," Laura Reimer laughed, thinking of those Monday mornings that NC students could stay in bed. Everyone generally took the adjustments in stride, however, and kept speeding through the school year.

Like winning a race, surviving the year required discipline, perseverance, strategy, and most importantly, the support of an encouraging pit crew. NC students kept busy, and they all ran out of fuel at one time or another. When fuel was low, the only way for students to keep rolling forward was to have friends and teachers willing to get behind them and push. So, through the combination of inner drive and outer support, students "ran in such a way as to receive the prize." Their reward? Life-long friends, smile-evoking memories, and, above all, a more Christ-centered character. -Holly Murphy

*Above - Huddling in the cold, **Kelli Garwood**, **Ruby Chang**, and **Ayami Fukushi** wait for the senior class photo to be snapped. The three friends all share a home in the dorm. Right- **Alycea Unruh** waits for the right moment to release her super-modified paper airplane that Mr. Dan Woods showed her how to build during Spiritual Emphasis Day.*

"School's as fun as you make it. I think my class is one of the funner classes- we have a lot of jokers and we're pretty laid back."
-Emily Murphy

Above left- Struggling to maintain her balance on the soapy surface of the slipp 'n' slide, **Becca Brill** *heartily enjoys what will be her last StuCo ice cream social at Nebraska Christian. Her favorite part? "The bubbles!" the senior exclaimed.*
Above right- Looking somewhat diabolic, **Mrs. Jo Moody** *tries not to think about what* **Cody Lobeda** *is doing to her hair. During a pep-rally on Blue and White Day, students got the chance to smear some "school spirit" on a few lucky teachers.*

Above- Wearing a very studious expression, or at least attempting to, **Ho Wai Ng** *learns about the Bible during ESL Bible Class. His industrious classmate,* **Paul Ryu**, *preferred looking up words in his electronic translator.*

Above- At a senior party hosted by Ashley Stone, **Celeste Hattan, Annie Nickel,** *and* **Abby Perez** *sit around* **Becca Brill** *and* **Lisa Osler** *as they showed off their musical talent.*
Right- Taking a day to relax together at the beginning of the school year, **Sam Krug, Jake Tonniges,** *and* **Bill Griepenstroh** *did their best to keep* **Amy Thiessen** *off the water trampoline. Eventually, Thiessen and Charice Schweitzer were pushed off.*

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Kelli Garwood, Sydney Zaruba, Fei Cheng, John Wong, Sam Krug, Tyson Ratliff, Bill Griepenstroh, Holly Murphy, Phillip Cunningham, Riley Garwood, Charice Schweitzer, Amy Thiessen, Erica Freeman, Ruby Chang, Ayumi Fukushi, Carmen Dockweiler Row 2: Laura Reimer, Becca Brill, Ashley Miller, Ashley Stone, Kaity Flynn, Lindsay Swanson, Annie Nickel, Celeste Hattan, Abby Perez, Lisa Osler, Heather Smith, Danica Woods, Sarah Garwood Row 3: Shugo Sato, Bruce Chen, Jaime Morales, Joseph Lee, David Lee, Tim Coleman, Jake Tonniges, Ryan Weedin, Jordan Ward

Leaving Behind

Golden Memories;

Making Bright Futures

"So , what are your plans for next year?" Like an annoying weed, this question seemed to sprout up in every conversation the seniors had. A lucky minority already had their lives mapped out, but most felt uncertain about their futures. "I worry about college. All the teachers talk to us about it," Abby Perez said. When asked what she was anxious about, Lindsay Swanson said, "Scholarships, the ACT, college, and keeping my grades up." Yes, the seniors stood on the doorstep of the "rest of their lives," and felt the pressure of the decisions they had to make. But, there was more to the senior year than stress and preparation. The Class of '06 capped off their high school experience by living each day to its fullest. "I know this is my last year before everything changes," Bill Griepenstroh said. Most of his classmates echoed his sentiment and therefore wanted to take advantage of every opportunity to make their final year in high school unforgettable. "My goal for the year is to seize the day." Ashley Stone said. The seniors did just that by getting involved in everything from Student Council to sports to youth groups to part-time jobs which many had on the side. "This year is a lot busier than last year because of trying to work and keep up with school and sports," said Jake Tonniges. "Having Mondays off helps in order to work on the farm more, but homework is harder."

With all this busyness, it was no surprise that most seniors couldn't believe how quickly the last four years had flown by. "I don't want to think about it," Annie Nickel said when reminded that her time at NC was drawing to a close. Nickel's high school experience at NC, like most of her classmates, was full of golden memories about one of the most carefree times in her life. When asked about her favorite high school memories, Nickel said, "Football games, track meets, cheering for the team, getting all hyped-up, and just being stupid with your friends!" Sarah Garwood, while contemplating one of her favorite memories, recalled, "The time Kelli and I got our first detentions for throwing gum in Mr. Geren's class!"

While laughing over past memories and living each day to the fullest, many of the seniors also desired to leave behind them a legacy at Nebraska Christian. "I want to impact the student body...to change the world," Lisa Osler proclaimed. Realizing that impacting lives does change the world, the senior class wanted to be an awesome example to those underclassmen that looked up to them.

Yes, the year was full of fun times, but the future could not be put off forever. This was also a time of preparation and the senior class' plans for the coming years were as varied as their personalities. "I don't want to go straight to college," Abby Perez said. "I was thinking about doing mission work in New Orleans." When asked about his plans for the future, Ryan Weedin remarked, "Go to college." Becca Brill simply stated, "I'll follow God's will." Kaity Flynn, a newcomer to the class, lightheartedly announced, "Leave Palmer. That's my only goal." No matter what their plans were, the bittersweet reality that the halcyon days of high school were drawing to a close was dawning on the seniors. Though unwilling to break the bonds they had formed, the seniors were excited to see where their class, bursting with so much potential and personality, would go in the years to come. "I think we have a bright future," Celeste Hattan affirmed. The Class of '06's four years of high school had, indeed, been golden; however, the years to come gleamed just as brightly.

-Holly Murphy

*Above- **Ryan Weedin, Phillip Cunningham,** and **Sam Krug** patiently wait to be instructed. In order to raise money, the senior class ran a concessions stand at the Merrick County Fair. Right- Trying to decide where to begin, **Lindsay Swanson** and **Kaity Flynn** look around Dollar General in search of things to put in their Operation Christmas Child gift box. The class went to Dollar General in Central City to buy items to fill their boxes.*

Becca Brill

"Jesus said, 'These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.'" -John 16:33

Fei Cheng

"I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying." -Michael Jordan

Ruby Chang

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment." -Buddha

Tim Coleman

"Every mighty oak was once just a little nut who held his ground." -anonymous

Bruce Chen

"What's important is not what you ask me to do, but it's what I ask myself to do." -LeBron James

Phillip Cunningham

"Those who live without risks, risk living at all." -anonymous

Class Motto

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

C.S. Lewis

Carmen Deckweiler

"I've learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not our circumstances." -Martha Washington

Class Verse

"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Galatians 1:10

Kaitlyn Flynn

"Cogito, ergo sum"
"I think, therefore I am."
-René Descartes

Erica Freeman

"Christ died for men precisely because men are not worth dying for, to make them worth it."
-C.S. Lewis

Riley Garwood

"If you don't have a reason worth dying for, then you don't have a reason worth living."
-anonymous

Rami Fukushi

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -Mahatma Gandhi

Sarah Garwood

"Eternal life is not only the quantity of life; it is the quality of life."
-anonymous

Kelli Garwood

"He is no fool to give what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose." -Jim Elliot

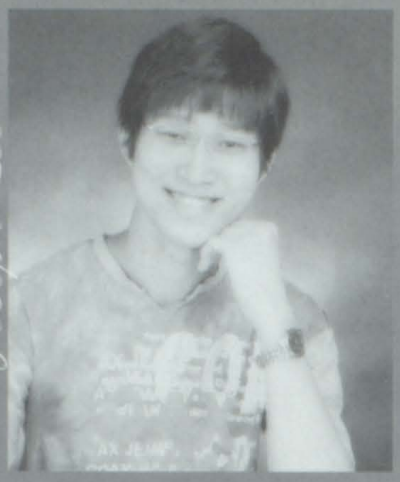
Bill Griepenstroh

"Impossible is nothing."
-Muhammed Ali

Celeste Hattan

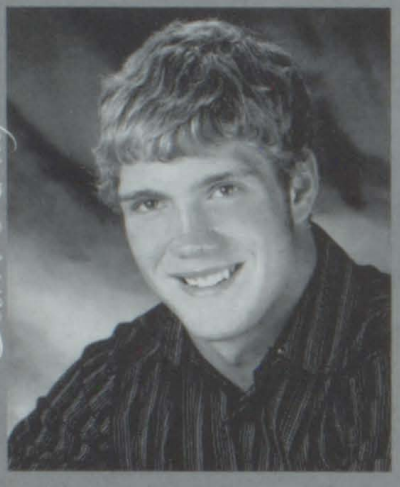
"Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."
-Hector Berlioz

Joseph Lee



"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and searchable things you do not know." -Jeremiah 3323

Sam Krug



"Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident."
-Psalm 273 (NIV)

Jereng Lutes

"Two things are infinite; the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
-Albert Einstein

David Lee

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
-Philippians 3:13b, 14 (NIV)

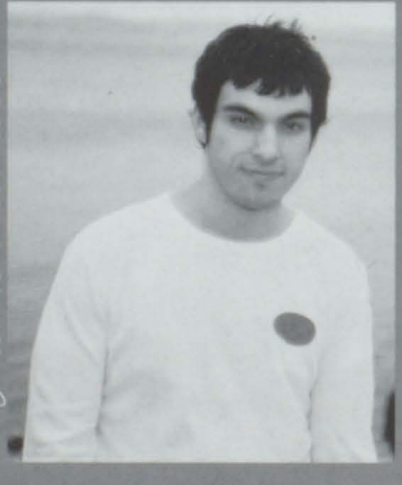
Ashley Muller

"For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking a city which is to come."
-Hebrews 13:14

Class Flower:
White Rose

Class Colors:
Navy Blue and Silver

Jaime Morales



"Whatever you do with enthusiasm is generally successful."
-Philippe De Rothschild

Holly Murphy

"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."
-2 Corinthians 12:19

Class Trips:

Freshman year:
Washington D.C.

Sophomore year:
Mexicali Missions Trip

Junior year:
Puebla, Mexico, Missions Trip

Senior year:
Washington D.C. March for Life; Puebla, Mexico, Missions Trip; Senior Retreat skiing in Colorado

Annie Nickel

"What do you think I am, a radio?" -unknown

Tyson Ratliff

"I just want to graduate." -Ryan Faeh

Lisa Osler

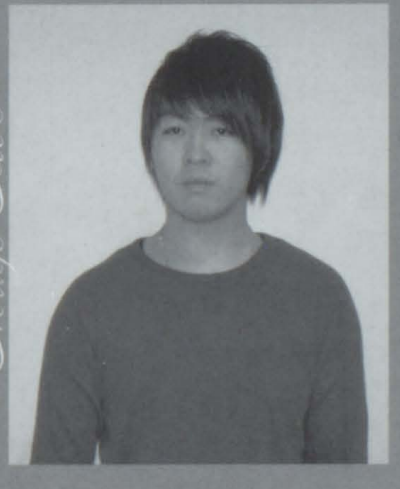
"If it seems that we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit."
-2 Corinthians 5:13 (New Living)

Laura Reimer

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed. But have sufficient courage, so that now as always, Christ may be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."
-Philippians 1:20

Abby Perez

"As you're sliding down the banister of life remember me, the splinter." -the Rickmeister



Shugo Sato

"The only thing to fear is fear itself."
-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Chance Schweitzer

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us."
-Ephesians 3:20

Lindsay Swanson

"Oh my, I passed!"
-Chris Farley

Heather Smith

"Good friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget." -unkown

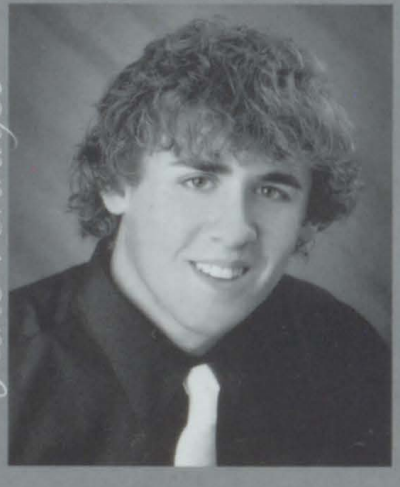
Amy Thiesen

"Sin and hell are married unless repentence proclaims the divorce."
-Charles Spurgeon

Ashley Stone

"When you're playing against a stacked deck, compete even harder. Show the world how much you'll fight for the winner's circle. If you do, someday the cellophane will crackle off a fresh pack, one that belongs to you, and the cards will be stacked in your favor." -Pat Riley

Jake Tonneges

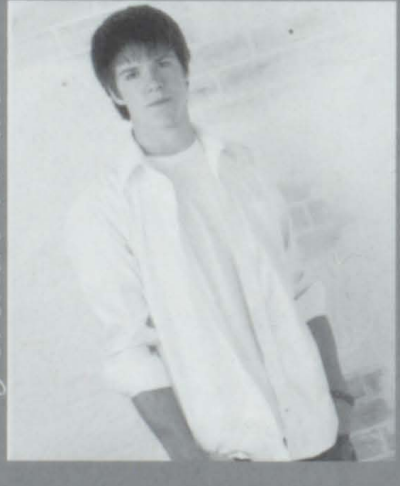


"There's more to life than being really really ridiculously good-looking, and I plan on finding out what that is."
-Derrick Zoolander

Class History:

The class of 2006 started out with 13 kids in kindergarten and 7 of them graduated in May. Of the 16 junior high students, 13 graduated. Their freshman year, the class doubled in size to 32 and 25 of them graduated. The Class of 2006 graduated May 12, 2006.

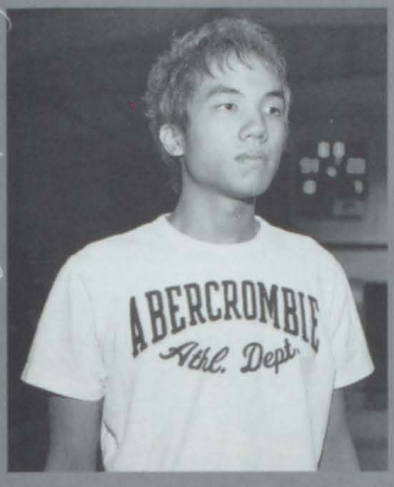
Jordan Ward



"One man can make a difference." -anonymous

Ryan Weedin

"Get thee to a nunnery woman!" -Hamlet



Chen In (John) Wong

"You better start swimming or you will sink like a stone." -Bob Dylan

Danica Woods

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't came from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it." -Ephesians 2:8-9

Sydney Zaruba

"For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." -Galatians 5:13

SENIOR SURVEY

WITTIEST
Tyson Ratliff
Lindsay Swanson

LOUDEST
Bill Griepenstroh
Sydney Zaruba

QUIETEST
Fei Cheng
Ayami Fukushi

CLASS CLOWN
Phillip Cunningham
Lisa Osler

BEST PERSONALITY
Ryan Weedin
Abby Perez

BEST DRESSED
John Wong
Amy Thiessen

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Joseph Lee
Kelli Garwood

BIGGEST TROUBLEMAKER
Jake Tonniges
Ashley Stone

MOST ATHLETIC
Jordan Ward
Holly Murphy

MOST FRIENDLY
Sam Krug
Laura Reimer

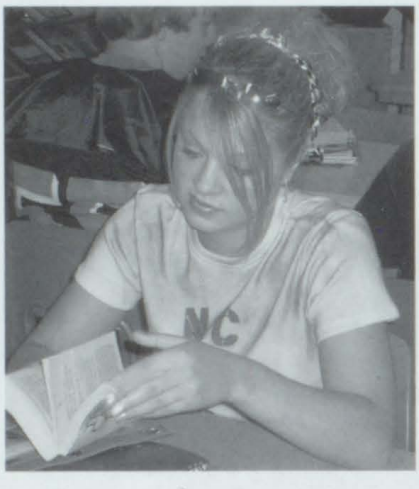
MOST LAIDBACK
Jeremy Lutes
Heather Smith

MOST LIKELY TO BE FAMOUS
Tim Coleman
Sarah Garwood

-39 people surveyed

"Even though school is hard for me, friends make the best of it."
-Ho Wai Ng

Right- At Kick Off Kapers, **Josh Bailey, Drew Hanke,** *and* **Tyler Nunnenkamp** *show off their school spirit. Classes competed to see who had the most spirit.*
Below right- Dressed up for Blue and White Day, **Alysia Brethouwer** *studies in the library for a Bible test over a chapter in The Case for Faith. That was just one of many tests Bible III had over the book.*



Above- During study time in Spanish 2, **Samuel Stuhmer** *and* **Josh Bailey** *discuss their after-school plans. Both boys had time on their hands between football and basketball seasons.*

Diversity Characterizes the Junior Class...

Yet Unity Prevails

The class of 2007 fit an easy, one word description: "diverse." There were many groups in the class. Dorm students, athletes, funny people, and quiet people all played a role in giving the class its diversity. Ali Galloway said, "There were cliques, but at the same time, everyone vibed together."

Different types of people brought different kinds of personalities into the mix. An overwhelming majority of guys added some extra spice. Stacey Krieger said, "We definitely had a limited number of girls, but the guys added all of the entertainment we needed." Although there was about a 2:1 ratio of guys to girls, the girls still contributed to the class' uniqueness by coming from all over, with 8 of 10 living in the dorm.

Despite all of the personalities that made up the class, nothing could drag them apart. Though there were conflicts, everyone managed to develop friendships. They always found time to come together and hang out, whether it was before or after school, or even during school. Though the class was not the biggest of classes, one thing remained certain. The class of 2007 was a great class, full of wonderful people! -Amanda Liegl and Bill Griepenstroh

Top- **Brice Necker** *does his best to wrap a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child as neatly as possible. The whole student body worked together to provide gifts for needy children around the world as the have for the last few years.*
Above- During Spiritual Emphasis Day in October, flowers were given, along with a spoken blessing from a female staff person, to each girl. **Brittany Epp, Stacey Krieger,** *and* **Kristen Mott** *considered the meaning of the flowers and the words of advice given to the junior girls.*

Josh Bailey

Megan Bordenkircher

Alysia Brethouwer

Tony Deichmann

Brittany Epp

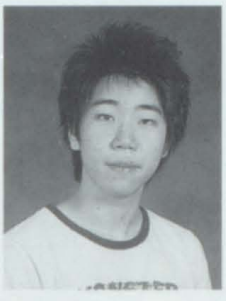
Luke Faeh

Truman Faeh

Ali Galloway

Alli Griess

Drew Hanke



Samuel Hwang

Hiro Ito

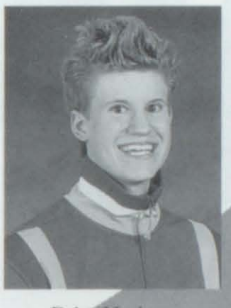
Daniel Jang

Stacey Krieger

Jamie Li

Amanda Liegl

Kristen Mott



Brice Necker

Ho Wai Ng

Trever Nunnenkamp

Tyler Nunnenkamp

Matt Ryan

Samuel Stuhmer

David Trinh

Micah Unruh

Masa Watase

Wai Wong

Shan Yu

"Huh...I don't remember studying this..."

-Matt Ryan

"The changing needs to stop."
-Lesley Ribbens

*Right- **Ashley Faeh** shows confusion as Mr. Mike Brill reviews for a Bible test. Bible class gave students a chance to learn more about God and to grow spiritually. Below right- **Beth Ignowski** leans over to ask **Katie Beck** a question during computer class. The sophomores improved their typing skills immensely over the year.*

*Above- **Katie Beck** smiles as **Mrs. Barb Hoff** hugs **Jamie Jividen**. Spiritual Emphasis Day provided great fun for both the teachers and the students and gave them a chance to interact.*

*Top- As **Mike Swanson** heads to his next class, many people admire his crazy outfit. Superhero Day allowed the students to show off a playful sense of fashion.*

*Above- **Michelle Clement** and **Amy Dishman** paint the sign for the Veteran's Day Float, which won second place in the parade. Art provided an opportunity for students to use their creativity and to get needed credits for graduation.*

Sophomores Enjoy Pace of the Four-day Week

Sophomores had only two years to go until they were out of high school. Many thought the year went extremely fast, but there were also those that thought it went slower. With the year flying or dragging, depending on the individual's point of view, most enjoyed the four-day weeks. Without exception, the class liked the extra day off.

Loving the extra day off, Beth Ignowski said, "I enjoy the day off because I get to sleep in, do my homework in my own time, and hang-out with all my friends." When asked if the year went by faster, Beth replied, "Yes, because it makes the weeks go by faster." Thinking the same thing, Andrew McHargue said, "I like the extra day off because it makes the week go by faster. On the extra day off I also like to sleep and work." With mixed emotions, Lesley Ribbens said, "I like the extra day off because I get to sleep in, it also allows me to work and earn money, but I also don't like it because it is the day we are supposed to study, and I hate studying."

The sophomores liked the extra day off and, for the most part, utilized their time wisely. The year sped by for the sophomores, and they looked forward to their summer vacation and upcoming junior year.

-Liz Smith

Katie Bailey

Katie Beck

Michelle Clement

Amy Dishman

Shelby Elge

Ashley Faeh

Caden Huenefeld

Beth Ignowski

Jamie Jividen

Cody Lobeda

Andrew McHargue

Lesley Ribbens

Chrissy Ritta

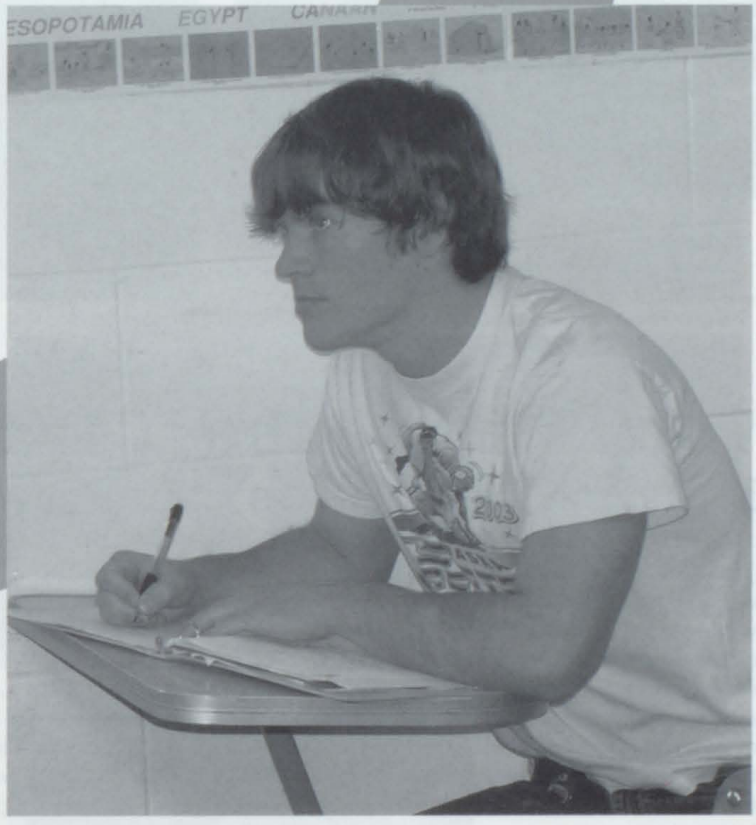
Jon Ritta

Brittney Shepherd

Liz Smith

Mike Swanson

*Above- **Cody Lobeda** and **Andrew McHargue** plan where to put streamers for Homecoming decorations. Each class was assigned a portion of the gym building.*



*Above- Jotting notes down quickly, **Caden Huenefeld** concentrates on what he is being told for the test. Huenefeld homeschooled in the mornings and came to N.C. in the afternoons in order to have enough hours to allow him to participate in wrestling.*

"Soon it will all be over. Then a new monopoly will begin."
-Caleb Coleman

Right- Enjoying a little candy, **Braden Swanson** *and* **Joseph Kim** *wait for the rest of their group to finish their Christmas boxes. When asked about this new experience, Kim remarked, "I like helping out. I never get this opportunity in Korea." Below right- Working diligently on geography homework,* **Kelsie Selden** *rushes to complete her assignment before the bell.*

Above- **Ray Johnson** *and* **Darren Holzinger** *fight off brain freeze as they begin the race to empty out their tray of ice cream. The banana split eating contest was one of many events in which the students participated at the StuCo Social.*

Two Times the Class...

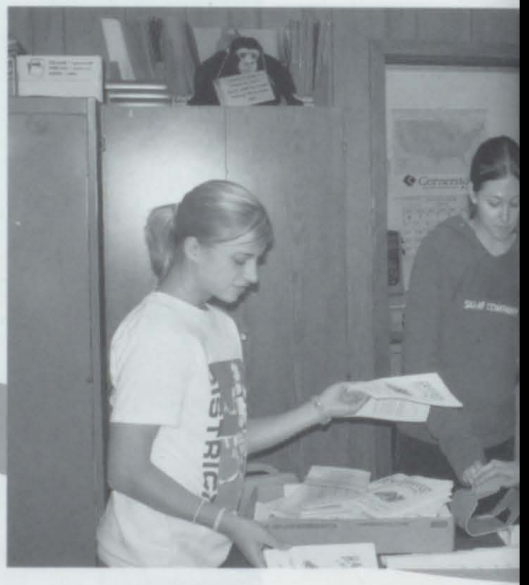
Equals Ten Times the Fun

Finally the days of elementary and junior high came to an end. Recess was a long lost friend, and easy homework was only a memory. The 2006 freshmen class came into the year with double the energy and double the size. There was never a dull moment with such a variety of personalities and characters. Despite their obvious differences, the class got along very well, and friends were made instantly.

The freshmen established their reputation as athletic and intelligent, with approximately 78% of the class out for sports and the distinction of being the only class without any failing grades in the first quarter.

The class kept busy all year with homework, studying, sports, and school outings. Some of the freshmen had to deal with all this while being thousands of miles from home. When asked about the adjustment, Fred Lee said, "School was harder in Taiwan, but this year is much more fun, even though everyone is taller than me." When they weren't doing homework, studying, or playing sports, they usually had an easier time adjusting and just hanging out together. Throughout the year, they strengthened their ties with each other and with Christ.

-Emily Murphy and Elizabeth Griess



Top- During Spirit Week, **Emily Murphy** *decorates a poster as encouragement for the volleyball team. It was a competition between the classes to see who could decorate with the most school spirit.*

Above- **Karrah Miller, Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Griess,** *and* **Kiel Hansen** *assemble programs for the Harvest Festival. They all got out of study hall to help prepare for the event.*

Jessica Bailey

Chelsea Baker

Henry Cheung

Caleb Coleman

Levi Dixon

Audra Faeh

Cheri Garwood

Elizabeth Griess

Kiel Hansen

Darren Holzinger

Ray Johnson

Wes Kembel

Joseph Kim

Fred Lee

Jerry Lobeda

Jacky Lung

Karrah Miller

Emily Murphy

Sarah Perez

Byron Reimer

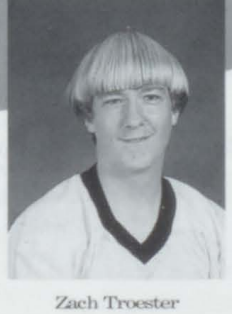
Danielle Richards

Stephanie Ritta

Kelsie Selden

Braden Swanson

Lacy Tonniges



Zach Troester

Rebecca Woods

"I laugh at everything."
-Sarah Perez

"Our class is pretty cool."
-Reed Hawke

Right- During Spiritual Emphasis Day, **Katrina Troester** *and* **Kendra Griepenstroh** *enjoy an intense game of tether ball. Tether ball was just one of many games played at Covenant Cedars. Below right-* **Lyndsi Kembel** *and* **Kelsey Shepherd** *work together on wrapping a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Students either packed their own shoebox or worked with a friend.*

Above- During the StuCo ocial, **Alycea Unruh, Taylor Sherwood, Jordan McHargue,** *and* **Beau Andrews** *race to eat their banana split the fastest.*

New Experiences-

Seventh Graders Jump to Junior High

Seventh graders are young and can be unprepared to face the many changes that come with junior high. However, everyone must grow up sometime and face the changes brought on by these realities. Eighth graders faced those changes last year and lived to tell the tale. Daniel Hoops said, "Last year, I didn't use an assignment book, and this year I am." Along with adapting to the four-day week, the usual challenges of meeting new people, changing classes and teachers every hour, and competing in organized sports were all faced by the 2005-2006 junior high.

The 7th graders had the most difficult time adjusting, due to the fact that they were moving up from elementary and their class doubled in size. Alycea Unruh said, "There are a lot more people in the class, which makes it more noisy, but it's a chance to make more friends." This forced them to step outside of their comfort zones and make new friends. In addition to making new friends, they also had to get reacquainted with the 8th graders, many of whom they knew from elementary.

With new experiences came many lessons. Rarely were there nights without homework, and students had to discipline themselves to study. The 7th graders caught on quickly to the fact that talking and other offenses were punishable by detention. Those lessons were valuable, and would stick with them into high school.

-Jerry Lobeda and Bill Griepenstroh

Top- While playing a friendly game of basketball during Spiritual Emphasis Day, **Paul Ryu** *and* **Christopher Toukan** *celebrate by giving each other a high-five. Spiritual Emphasis Day was held at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp near Hordville. Above-Eighth graders* **Janelle Bailey, Abbie Krug,** *and* **Elliot Murphy** *work diligently on their English homework. Junior high students were together for every class but math and English where they were split by grade.*

Beau Andrews, 7

Sarah Armatys, 7

Casey Beck, 7

James Davis, 7

Kendra Griepenstroh, 7

Lauren Hadenfeldt, 7

Sable Homolka, 7

Kayla Jameson, 7

Cody Lawson, 7

Carly Lobeda, 7

Jordan McHargue, 7

Nathan Ritta, 7

Scott Ritta, 7

Michelle Toukan, 7

Katrina Troester, 7

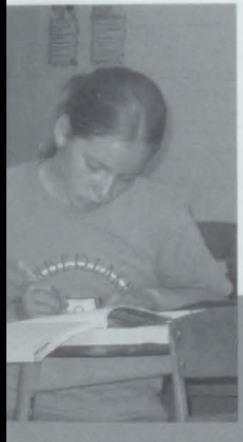
Alycea Unruh, 7

Janelle Bailey, 8

Reed Hanke, 8

Daniel Hoops, 8

Lyndsi Kembel, 8



Abbie Krug, 8

Jinny Lee, 8

Elliot Murphy, 8

Rebekah Poeffel, 8

Amber Rainbolt, 8

Adam Richardson, 8

Paul Ryu, 8

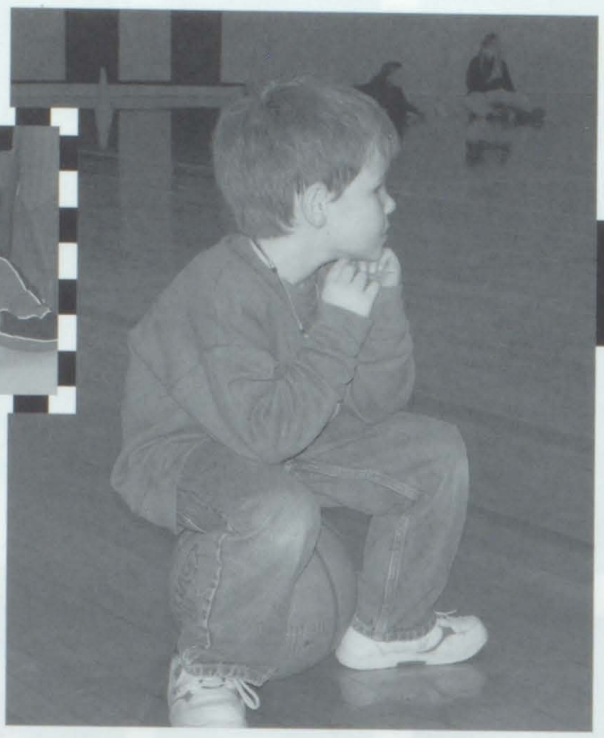
Kelsey Shepherd, 8

Taylor Sherwood, 8

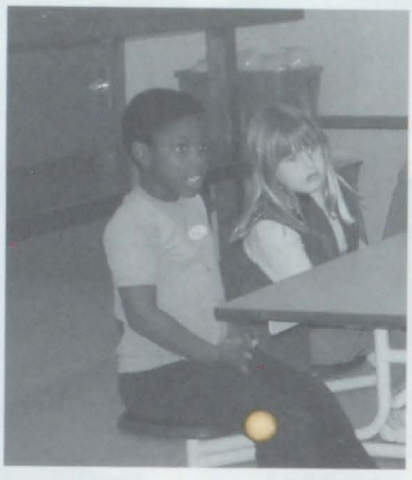
Christopher Toukan, 8

Kala Walgren, 8

"I want to be a policeman, that way I can drive fast!"
-Jaydon Elge



*Right- Watching his mom, Mrs. Daurice Hower, teach elementary P.E., **Seth Hower** sits patiently on a basketball. Below right- **Rubi McHargue** and **Whitney Heuermann** wait patiently while prize winners for the pancake feed ticket sales are announced. Heuermann was one of the top four salespeople.*



*Above- Sliding around a cone in P.E. class, **Ethan Unruh** giggles with delight as he outpaces his competition.*

Activities Keep Elementary Students Busy

Students at Nebraska Christian Elementary were challenged daily to honor the Lord in all they said and did. They strove for excellence, and the Lord blessed them over the course of their year.

With the war continuing in Iraq, the elementary students had an ongoing project called Operation S.E.T (Students Encouraging Troops). They were able to send letters of encouragement, a phone card, and a gospel tract to many soldiers who were stationed outside of the U.S.A. These men and women were upheld in prayer regularly by the students and staff. Another project the kids helped with was Operation Christmas Child. They have participated in this ministy for several years and packed over 40 boxes.

Students at Nebraska Christian Elementary also had the opportunity to sing in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols over Christmas break. They were honored to be singing under the direction of Carnegie Hall Conductor, Eric Dale Knapp. Truly, it was a year of priceless memories.

-Mrs. Janice Stuhmer

*Top- **Spencer Williams** and **Jaydon Elge** wrap their box for Operation Christmas Child. The students packed boxes for the project every year. Above- Playing a game during their Christmas party, **Zachary Dockweiler** and **Marilla Flynn** pass four candy canes from hand to hand during a race. Parents organized activities, planned games, and brought food in for the parties.*

Spencer Williams, K

Jaydon Elge, 1

Marilla Flynn, 1

Sarah Simmons, 1

Reagan Williams, 1

Zachary Dockweiler, 2

Whitney Heuermann, 2

Alexis Hower, 2

Rubi McHargue, 2

Lily Hanke, 3

Maddie Kirby, 3

Hannah Ritta, 3

Andrew Sack, 3

Emily Simmons, 3

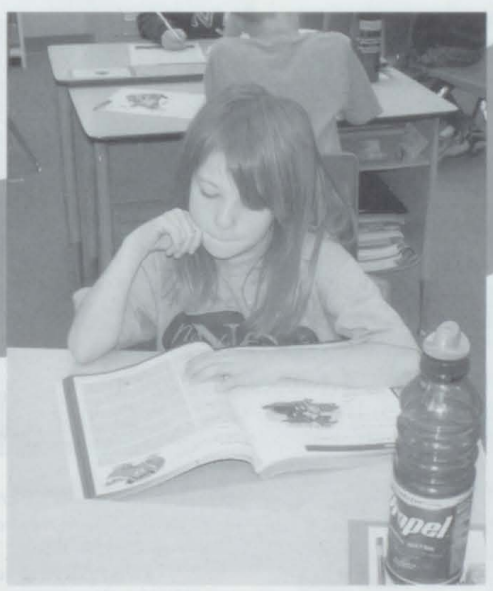
Ethan Unruh, 3

Kaci Walgren, 3

Ben Hansen, 4

Rachel McHargue, 4

Scott Smith, 4



*Above- **Kaci Walgren** dutifully studies her homework assignment for Mrs. Denise Schreiber.*

Above- The preschool, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Kalob Green, Kate Pipher, Halle Strong, Stephanie Strobel, Seth Hower Row 2: Mrs. Verna Zaruba, Bennett Zaruba, Curt Bailey, Alexander Hollingsworth, Savannah Zimmer, Jada McHargue

"The highlight of my year was being in 'Once Upon a Starry Knight'."
-Slawna Bailey

Right- During her afternoon recess, ***Jae Welk*** *enjoys some alone time on the swings.*
Below right- While enjoying a delicious brownie, ***Luke Woods*** *laughs at a fellow classmate during the annual Christmas party. The students enjoyed an afternoon of snacks, games, and presents.*

Above- As a reward for selling the most pancake feed tickets, ***Katherine Welk*** *tries to select a prize. The feed was an annual fundraiser for the elementary. Funds were used for a scholarship.*

Upper Elementary Anticipates Future

The 2005-2006 school year brought some changes to the 5th and 6th grade class. Four new students were added, and the class switched from the elementary grading scale to the high school grading scale so that they would be more prepared for junior high. The 6th grade added two new boys, and the 5th grade also added two boys over the course of the year making the combined classes the largest in the elementary. The upper grades had more responsibility. They learned new leadership skills, and the 6th graders enjoyed being "at the top," but at the same time, the excitement of leaving their elementary days behind and moving up into junior high was always in the back of their minds. When asked about what she most looked forward to in junior high Joanna Stuhmer replied, "I can't wait to be in junior high so I can hang around older kids and have more freedom."

As the year progressed, the 5th graders looked forward to being the leaders for next year, and the 6th graders enjoyed their "last times" in a variety of elementary activities, such as their last opportunity to participate in the elementary musical and taking their final field trip. At the same time, the 6th graders looked forward to the many "first times" that they would experience next year.

-Jessica Davis

Top- During a P.E. game of King, ***Joanna Stuhmer*** *races around the court to avoid being taken out by* ***Carrie Beck****. The elementary students loved playing King in P.E. and at recess. Above- Starry Knight and Patch the Pirate, played by* ***Anthony Faeh*** *and* ***Luke Woods****, discuss the importance of taking care of others. In the spring musical, Starry Knight earned the right to be king by putting others first.*

Shanna Bailey, 5

Carrie Beck, 5

Kimberly Deichmann, 5

Anthony Faeh, 5

Curtis Heuermann, 5

Devin Homolka, 5

Anna Kirby, 5

Braden Moody, 5

Andrea Stachura, 5

Jae Welk, 5

Katherine Welk, 5

Seth Bailey, 6

Jessica Davis, 6

Josiah Dixon, 6

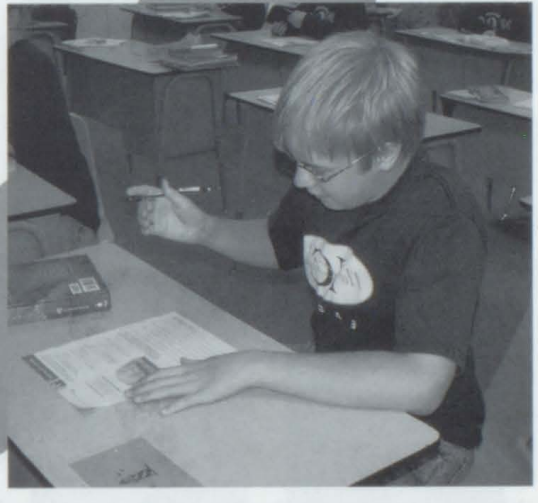
Isaac Elge, 6

Jacob Simmons, 6

Joanna Stuhmer, 6

Luke Woods, 6

Above- During their Valentine's Day party, **Jacob Simmons** *and* **Anthony Faeh** *get carried away in a game of Charades. The elementary students enjoyed a break from schoolwork to celebrate the holiday.*

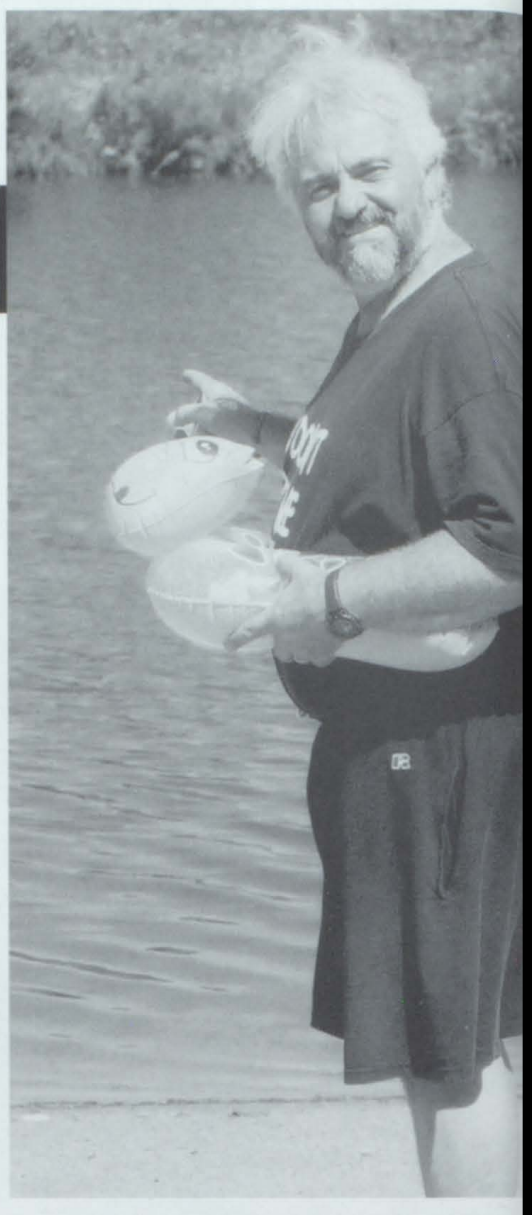


Above- **Josiah Dixon** *works diligently to finish his Bible worksheet before the end of the day. "I can't wait until we start learning about the book of Revelation," said Dixon.*

"I like saying hi to the kids when they come through the kitchen."
-Annette Ward

*Right- **David Edgren** enjoys a nice afternoon drive down the campus' main sidewalk. The vehicle he was driving was donated by Bill Sapp for the school to use or sell at the auction.*

*Below- During the senior retreat at Covenant Cedars Mr. **Mike Brill** demonstrates water safety. This was his last year at N.C. after serving for the past six years as the Chaplain and Bible teacher.*



New Leadership Takes the Wheel at NC

Nebraska Christian Schools has "shifted gears" many times throughout its 47 year history. People and buildings have come and gone. Over 1,000 students have graduated and shifted into the next phase of their lives.

In '05-'06 an unusual shift occured as two administrators Dr. Dave Edgren and Dan Woods worked together and transitioned out and into leadership at the school. School Board President Norm Krug said, "The God-honoring way the transition has taken place has been exciting to see."

Dr. Edgren was at the wheel since 2000. His accomplishments, according to Krug, included, "an attitude of excellence," and "the move to a better balance between tuition based and gift income based funding." During the past five years Edgren has, "done a great deal to think outside the box to stabilize the financial situation," said Krug.

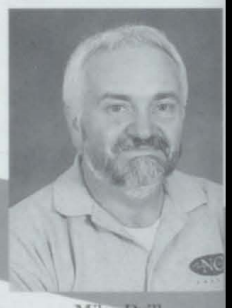
Shifting to Dan Woods at the end of the year led into a huge push for the new high school building project, which was his second priority behind his desire to implement the Mission Statement adopted by the school board during the fall. "Providing a Christ-centered education, equipping students with a Biblical worldview, and encouraging a love relationship with Jesus Christ is our mission at Nebraska Christian," he said.

-Mrs. Sandi Griepenstroh

David Edgren-
Superintendent

Tom Aspegren

Gina Aspegren



Mike Brill

Kathy Chase

Harold Cook

Becky Deichmann

Tom Dockweiler

Ruth Ferris

Mike Flynn

Vicky Graeff

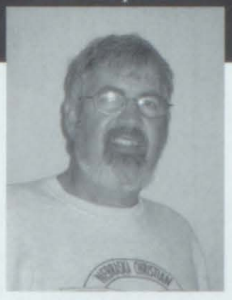
Sandi Griepenstroh

Jeff Hanke

Trudy Hanke

Jody Heuermann

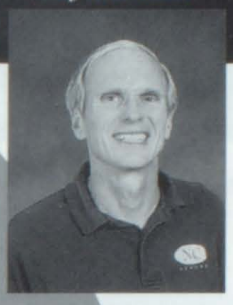
Barb Hoff



Larry Hoff

Daurice Hower

Jeff Hower



Scott Johnson

Kathy Kirby

Karen Miotke

Jo Moody

Donna Pedersen

Marlow Pedersen

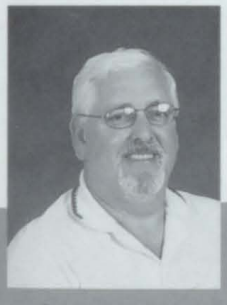
Rainey Prusa

Becky Ritta

Bob Ritta

Susan Ritta

Denise Schreiber



Larry Schreiber

Charissa Smith

Cheryl Smith

Janice Stuhmer

Bill Uhler

Jacky Uhler

Annette Ward

Patty Welk

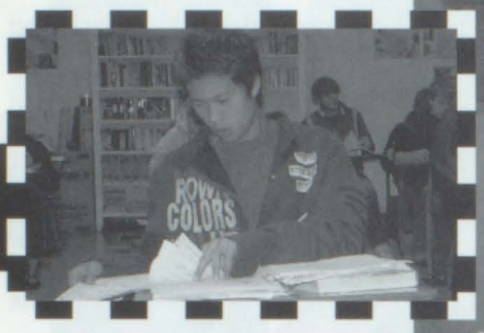
Dan Woods

Kim Woods

Jessica Zaruba

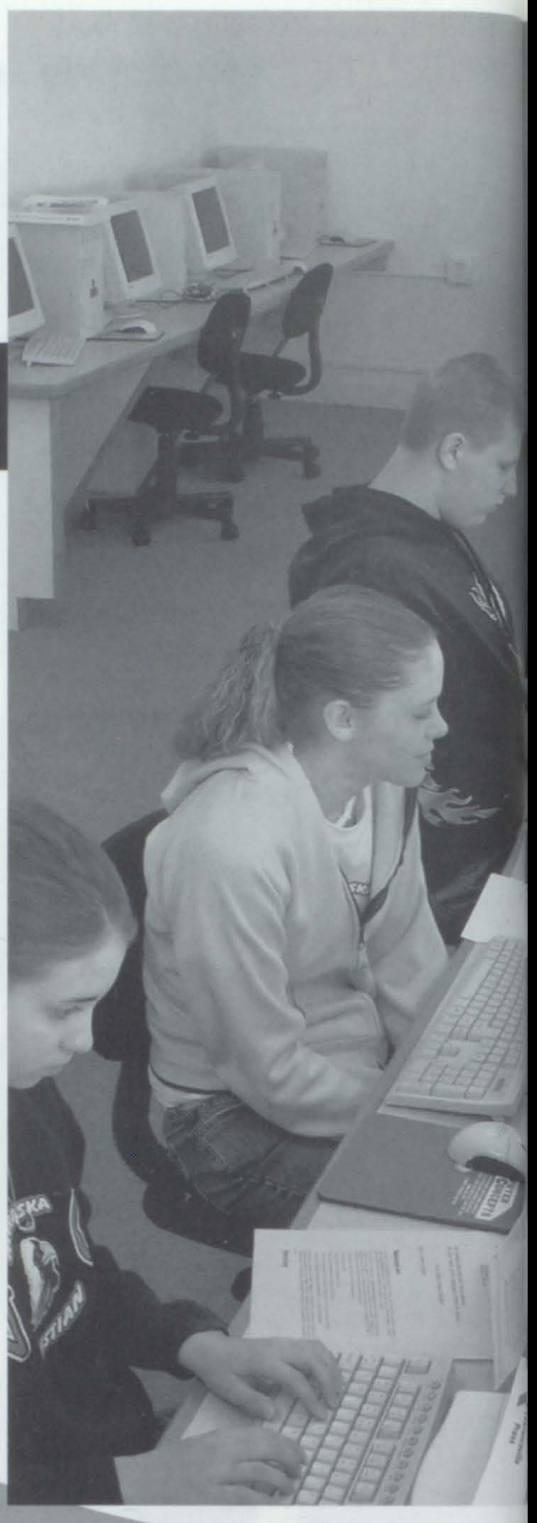
Verna Zaruba

"American History is one of the hardest classes I've ever had."
-Bruce Chen



*Right- **Mike Swanson** checks out Mrs. G's cell phone during one of his frequent visits to her classroom during freshman English class. Being a curious guy, Mike came often just to say "hi" and see what was happening in Room 4 since he didn't have a class there.*

*Right- **Celeste Hattan** and **Abby Perez** work together on a science lab for their Anatomy and Physiology class. Labs were held during the 4th hour study hall and during the regular 7th hour A & P class in order to fit everyone into the science lab in the basement of the Administration Building.*



*Above- Freshmen who were not here during junior high often have to take a keyboarding class in order to be ready for computer class as sophomores. **Jessica Bailey, Lacy Tonniges,** and **Darren Holzinger** started at NC during their freshman year and fit right in with their classmates as they were joined by ten new classmates in the fall semester and another two during the spring semester.*

Trudging Ahead...

Students spend time in the classroom.

The school day was modified this year due to the new four-day week. It was lengthened by about 25 minutes, so additional time was added to each class period during the day. This was an unwelcome change at the beginning of the year, and students found themselves trudging from class to class just trying to survive the long days. While it was challenging at times to stay awake with the added length of the day and it was sometimes difficult to complete the extra homework assignments on time, the four-day week proved to develop perseverance and dedication in many of the students.

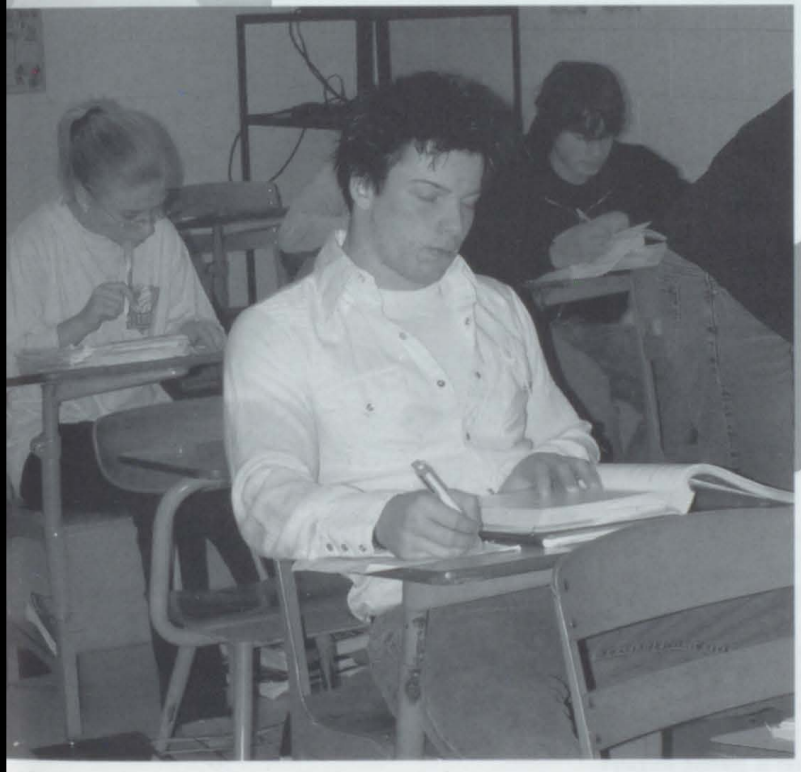
Another notable change occured after the first semester. Mr. Mike Brill, the Bible teacher and Chaplain, accepted a new position at Wegner Monument where he went to work after his 2nd hour class. Mr. Scott Johnson tackled the job of teaching the freshmen class, and Mr. Doug McHargue was hired to teach the sophomores and juniors. Brill's new job still allowed him to instruct the senior class first period and the junior high Bible class second period.

As students dragged themselves from class to class at the beginning of the year, they gradually grew used to the long days and learned to appreciate the extra time in classes in order to learn and to spend time working on the assignments for the next day.

-Cheri Garwood

Below- **Jordan Ward, David Trinh, Sam Krug, Becca Brill, Sydney Zaruba, Abby Perez,** and **Holly Murphy** listen intently as **Mrs. Rainey Prusa** demonstrates the bones of the body for her Anatomy and Physiology class using a female skeleton that has belonged to NC for several years.

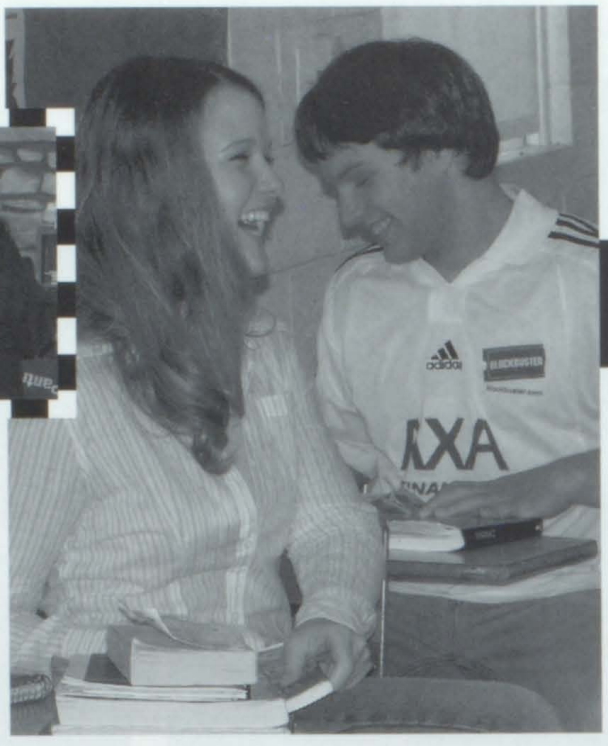
Below- **Nathan Ritta** gets a wrestling lesson in P.E. class. During the fall, junior high boys had the option of participating in cross country or wrestling. **Coach Terry Elge** came in and worked with the boys to prepare them for their wrestling meets.



Above- **Micah Unruh, Amanda Liegl,** and **Truman Faeh** work diligently on their U.S. History homework during their first hour class. Students often had time in class to finish their homework and still get help preparing for their second hour class--Algebra II.

Above- International students **Masa Watase** and **Fred Lee** try a blindfolded taste test as a part of their ESL Science curriculum. They tried sugar, salt, and lemon on different portions of the tongue in order to determine the locations of the taste buds.

"We are learning a lot of new things in art; it's really fun!"
-Carly Lobeda



*Right- **Kelli Garwood** and **Phillip Cunningham** laugh during the end of Spanish II. The reason for Garwood laughing was the fact that Cunningham said, "No, seriously Kelli, I know how to speak Spanish!" His tendency to say words that he did not know louder than everyone else made his statement all the more humorous.*

*Right- **Megan Bordenkircher** and **Brittany Epp** work on their website for Computer III. The class gave students a variety of opportunities involving computers, from programming to website building. When asked why she liked the class, Bordenkircher said, "I don't know—we just have so much fun."*

*Above- **Ali Galloway** and **Truman Fach** act out a broken teenage romance as they do a skit for chapel. It contained a series of short dramas that showed different ways that Satan tries to deceive people and destroy their lives and their relationships. The drama was written by Mrs. Barb Hoff's elective speech class, which was a new class offered in '05-'06. Members of the class worked on their speech and drama skills throughout the year, and in addition to performing in chapel, they also went on choir tours to present their work to area churches.*

Elective Classes
Provide a Break from the Ordinary

In an eight period day, students were required to take core classes, including: Bible, math, English, history, and science. So, how did they fill up the rest of their day?

Well, students took elective classes. Students chose what elective classes they wanted to take or if they wanted to take electives or a study hall instead. Some of the seniors even decided on an early work release in order to go to an after-school job.

The electives included: Yearbook; Art I and II; Spanish I, II, and III; Speech; Shop; Computer III; Choir; Band; and study hall. Even though the selection was relatively small, it was still nice to have choices that were a break from the basics. These classes were mostly open to the juniors and seniors, but all grades had some options open to them.

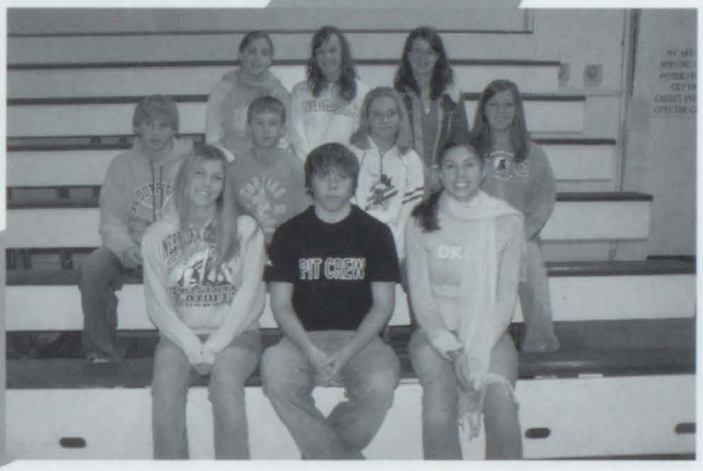
Most students enjoyed the electives that they had chosen. If they didn't, they could always drop the class and make a different choice at semester break. Plus, why would anyone want to take three study halls?

Taking electives was a great experience. They offered a chance to learn about something that interested the student, and most even added some fun into the long school days. -Amanda Liegl

*Below- **Bill Griepenstroh** and **Mrs. Sandi Griepenstroh** look over and edit his pages during Yearbook. The editing process could be a frustration, but both Griepenstrohs agreed that the end product was well worth the effort.*

*Below- The yearbook class looks over the first set of proofs that came back. **Heather Smith**, **Holly Murphy**, **Liz Smith**, and **Amanda Liegl** enjoyed going through the articles and cutlines to see if they could find any mistakes.*

*Above- During shop class, **Tony Deichmann** and **Jeremy Lutes** work on a project. Students in shop worked on mechanics and building throughout the year.*



Above- The yearbook class, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Business Manager Heather Smith, Editor Bill Griepenstroh, Assistant Editor Holly Murphy Row 2: Jerry Lobeda, Braden Swanson, Amanda Liegl, Liz Smith Row 3: Emily Murphy, Elizabeth Griess, Cheri Garwood

"Sometimes when we get it just right, it gives me goose-bumps."
-Sarah Garwood

*Right- **Lauren Hadenfeldt** practices her song for the Harvest Festival with assistance from **Carly Lobeda**. Everyone in the junior high music class played a part in performing for the event.*

Right- The Master's Musicians, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Ashley Miller, Annie Nickel, Kaity Flynn, Sarah Garwood, Lisa Osler, Laura Reimer Row 2: Sam Krug, Joseph Lee, Drew Hanke, Luke Faeh

*Above- After several years of drumming, senior **Ashley Stone** takes a turn on the sousaphone. Stone contributed time to band all through high school. When asked about her instruments, Stone remarked, "I don't actually play the sousaphone; I just bang on my drums all day. I'm really gonna miss band next year."*

Sounding New-

Music Program Continues the Tradition of Excellence

The music program at Nebraska Christian took on a new look over the past year, along with a new twist. Mr. Mike Flynn, from Palmer, graced the campus with an original style and technique to teaching band, choir, and the Master's Musicians.

In those three programs, Flynn taught over 100 students each day with a fun-loving and excitement-filled approach. With this approach and the variety of new pieces mixed with the classics, students got a chance to experience a handful of musical styles and genres. Several new students decided to try music, and they were not disappointed. Ali Gallaway, a new student from Omaha who joined choir at the beginning of the second semester, said, "I love to sing, and Mr. Flynn is awesome, so it really made me want to join choir."

Although the program had a few difficulties transitioning into new leadership and incorporating many new faces from the student body into the band and choir, it was a great year. Expectations for the future include building on the success that the NC music program has had in the past and continuing a tradition of excellence.

-Annie Nickel

Below- During the Festival of Lessons and Carols, **Kristen Mott**, **Janelle Bailey**, **Brittney Shepherd**, *and* **Chrissy Ritta** *sing along with the other members of the 155 person choir. Carnegie Hall Conductor Eric Dale Knapp worked with students and adults from all around the area for one day and then presented an outstanding concert.*

Below- The band, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Cody Lawson, Kaity Flynn, Becca Brill, Lisa Osler, Ashley Stone, Laura Reimer, John Wong Row 2: Scott Ritta, Chrissy Ritta, Brittney Shepherd, Stephanie Ritta, Abbie Krug, Sable Homolka, Rebecca Poeffel Row 3: John Royal, Ray Johnson, Nathan Ritta, James Davis, Byron Reimer, Kendra Griepenstroh, Kelsey Shepherd Row 4: Casey Rose, Caleb Coleman, Eric Patten, Josh Bailey, Drew Hanke, Matt Ryan, Kiel Hansen

Above- **Byron Reimer**, **James Davis**, *and* **Kiel Hansen** *perfect a song during band practice. When asked how he felt about band, Hansen joked, "It's the greatest thing in the world!"*

Above- The choir, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Kelli Garwood, Amy Thiessen, Charice Schweitzer, Becca Brill, Danica Woods, Sydney Zaruba, Ashley Stone, Annie Nickel, Laura Reimer, Ashley Miller, Sarah Garwood Row 2: Ruby Chang, Ayami Fukushi, Danielle Richards, Lacy Tonniges, Sarah Perez, Beth Ignowski, Karrah Miller, Carmen Dockweiler, Kaity Flynn, Lisa Osler Row 3: Brittney Shepherd, Katie Beck, Megan Bordenkircher, Chrissy Ritta, Stephanie Ritta, Kelsie Selden, Audra Faeh, Kristen Mott, Stacey Krieger, Alysia Brethouwer, Ali Galloway Row 4: Darren Holzinger, Jon Ritta, Cody Lobeda, Phillip Cunningham, Wes Kembel, Byron Reimer, Riley Garwood, Erica Freeman, Brittany Epp Row 5: Kirk Rose, Andrew McHargue, Casey Rose, Zach Troester, Matt Ryan, Joseph Lee, Bruce Chen Row 6: Drew Hanke, Luke Faeh, Samuel Stuhmer, Josh Bailey, Truman Faeh (not pictured: Sam Krug, Samuel Hwang, Daniel Jang, David Lee, Shugo Sato, Lindsay Swanson, Mike Swanson, Jake Tonniges, Rebecca Woods)

Cruising Down Glory Road

Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of hearing a balding, middle-aged man relive his athletic glory days– tales of heroic last-second touchdowns or three-pointers– knows that sports are a huge part of life in high school. Those moments of glory are forever stored in the mind, and they are often dusted off, slightly embellished, and retold time and time again. Of course, hopes of great achievement aren't the main drive behind every athlete. But, come on– who doesn't dream of scoring that winning touchdown?

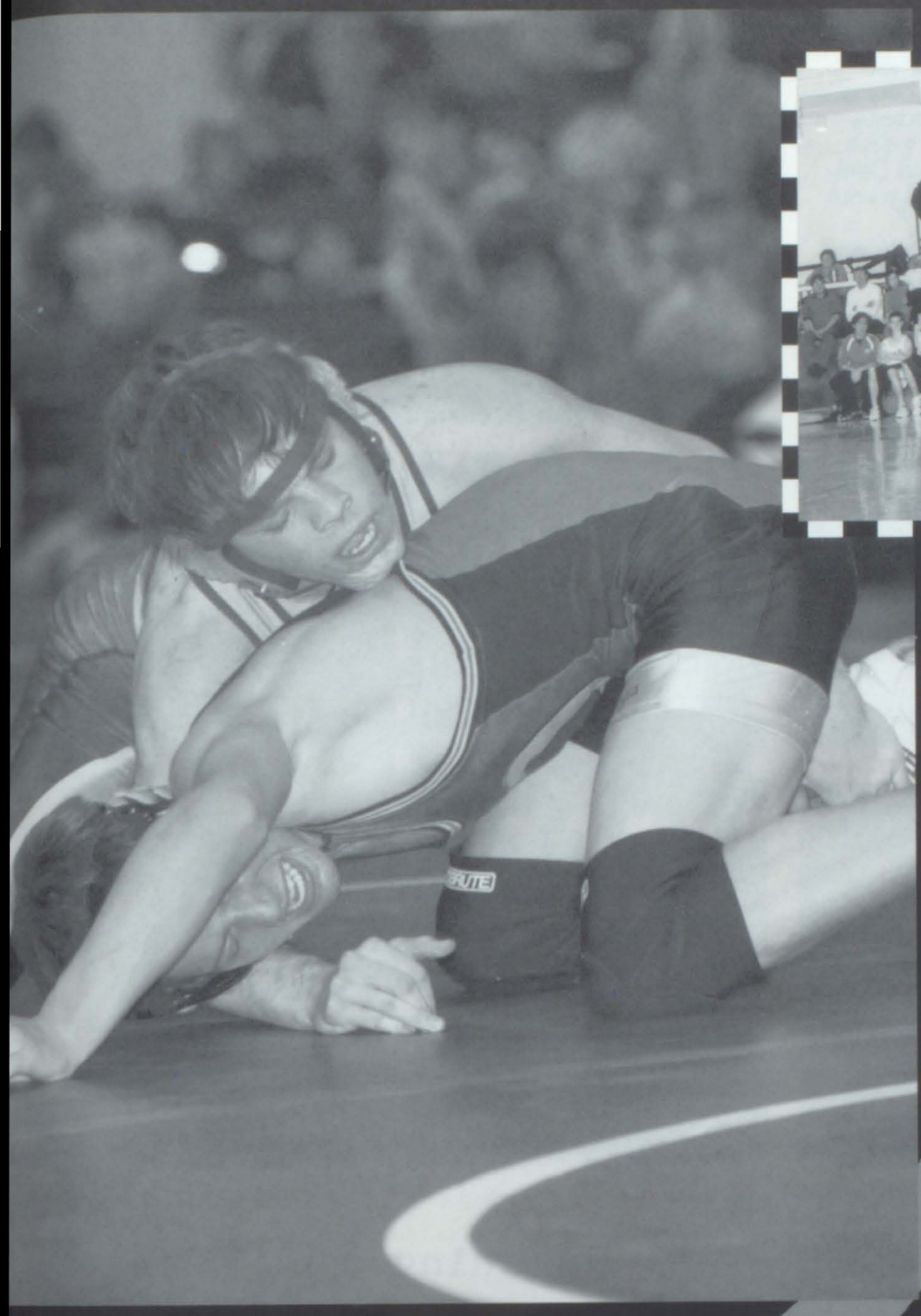
The glory did not come easily for NC athletes; going out for sports required sacrifice. Besides studying for tests, finishing assignments, writing papers, and doing a host of other school-related things, they had to commit at least two hours every night to practicing their sport. Was the experience worth it? Laura Reimer, a senior, was involved in band, choir, ensemble, speech, quiz bowl, youth group, and piano lessons. Besides all that, she had to spend time applying for colleges and scholarships. Amidst all the craziness, Reimer made the time to go out for both volleyball and basketball. Why? "It keeps me from staying at home and doing nothing, and it prevents the atrophy of the muscles!" she said.

Despite the excitement, in the end, the adrenalin high lasts a few moments, the physical condition lasts a few weeks, and the medals and letters last a few years. So, why did the athletes do what they did– for the trophies, for the glory? Maybe. Or, maybe there was something more. "I wanted to start a good habit that would last the rest of my life," wrestler Tim Coleman said. "I didn't want to die at the ripe old age of 58."

-Holly Murphy

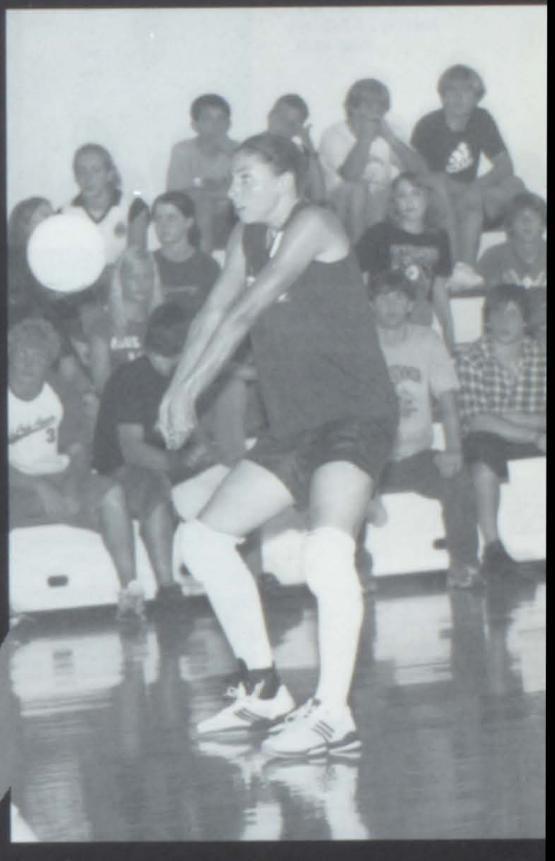
*Above - **Laura Reimer** grits her teeth as she struggles to maintain control of the basketball. Reimer was a crucial member of the team.*

*Left- **Jerry Lobeda** edges forward into the endzone for the touchdown. At the tender age of 13, Lobeda played the role of starting quarterback for the varsity football team and did well, leading the team to a 5-3 finish.*



"Sports taught me discipline and how to prioritize my time!"

-Samuel Hwang



Above- **Michelle Clement** *easily clears the high jump bar at the Osceola Invitational. She continued to fly high all day and walked away with a first-place medal.*

Above left- **Bill Griepenstroh** *fights to keep his Osceola opponent Devin Smith from gaining control. Griepenstroh wrestled Smith three times during the year, beating him all three times in close matches. The last match in which Griepenstroh defeated Smith qualified him for state. Above right- Getting her feet set, senior* **Holly Murphy** *prepares to pass the ball. As the only returning varsity starter, Murphy played a vital role in leading and encouraging the team.*

"Lifting builds self-confidence and teaches you to not give up. It's not about looking good; it's about feeling good about yourself."
-Micah Unruh

Below- While lifting for wrestling, **Bill Griepenstroh** shows off his muscles. Griepenstroh lifted almost everyday after school, so he would be better prepared for the upcoming season. His hard work paid off in a trip to the state tournament.

Right- Breathing hard, **Caden Huenefeld** counts in his head just how many more times he has to lift the weights up and down. Huenefeld was one of the most motivated lifters, but he also had fun while he was at it.

Left- Ho Wai Ng, barely sweats as he brings the weight up to his chin. Ng was one of the few internationals that lifted weights.

Right- Swiftly pushing the bar up, **Truman Faeh** pushes his body to its limits as he stays fit. Faeh enjoyed lifting at either the Fitness Center or at the school, and he always made time for working out.

Right- Strengthening his arms, **James Davis** lifts a hefty amount. Being a junior high student Davis was the only one that came in to tone his body.

Above- Laughing, **Laura Reimer** attempts to pick up the weights. She wasn't too serious about weightlifting, and she went to hang out and "lift." Reimer liked to have fun, but when she needed to be serious, she had the capabilities to get to work.

Reaching and Passing One's Goals

A few people look at weightlifting as a sport, while others view it as a way to get toned in a few minutes to an hour every day. Some just lift so they can be more successful in the sports that they play. Those that do not view weightlifting as a sport might believe that it cannot be a sport because there are no people to compete against. Micah Unruh, when asked what he thought about weightlifting, replied, "Lifting is a sport; it's a competition with yourself. It builds inner confidence. It's between you and no one else." It might not be a competition between two people, but keeping track of past efforts and striving for improvement kept people motivated to hit the weight room.

-Liz Smith

Racing to the Finish

The cross country team races to the goal with determination and will!

Crazy. Weird. Lunatic. These are just a few of the names people have been known to call the elite few who are willing to day after day "beat their bodies" as the Apostle Paul would say. Cross country runners must be willing to daily forget "self" and endure.

The term "few," in fact, defined the 2005 season, for neither the boys nor the girls team had enough participants to compete as a team. Drew Hanke was an all-season constant on the boys team. On the girls team, Carmen Dockweiler and Lindsay Swanson persevered throughout the season. Carmen said, "Cross country is gravel roads, sweat, stopwatches, and a friendly group of people trying to do the nearly impossible." She also said, "Running cross country is a combination of hard work and insanity."

"Running cross country is a combination of hard work and insanity."
-Carmen Dockweiler

Other team members that fluctuated were Chelsea Baker, Byron Reimer, and Wes Kembel. Because competition was not as important, team unity became a strong focus for the year. Through Matt Ryan's help as the student manager and Mr. Scott Johnson's coaching, the cross country team pulled together to have a uniquely productive season.

-Lindsay Swanson

Photo by Tim Nichols

*Above- **Lindsay Swanson** flies by the competition in one of her many races. N.C.'s girls ran with great determination and fought to improve their personal times, since no team scores were kept.*

Photo by Tim Nichols

Above-Left to right, student manager Matt Ryan, Drew Hanke, Carmen Dockweiler, Lindsay Swanson, Brittany Epp, and Coach Scott Johnson.
*Left- **Carmen Dockweiler** speeds by two of her tiring opponents. Carmen put a lot of effort into the race; she was very dedicated to the cross country team and a very hard worker.*

*Right- **Lindsay Swanson** runs hard, trying to get ahead of her opponents. As a senior, this was Lindsay's last year as a cross country runner. She helped uplift and encourage her fellow runners. Many times she helped them remember that they were running for the glory of God and not for themselves.*

Photo by Tim Nichols

"Getting in shape and feeling a sense of delusion after running three miles was great, but the free guitar lessons that my mom bribed me with felt way better."
-Drew Hanke

Synergetic Season-

Eagles start out slowly but finish as District Champions.

"I always liked to look back at my teammates after I scored a touchdown."
-Samuel Stuhmer

The 2005 NC football team had a synergetic season where new coaching staff, inexperienced team members, and veteran players worked together toward a successful season. No one knew what to expect at first, but hopes remained high. The hope dimmed when NC lost their first three games of the season. However, the team found new life at the Homecoming game against Shelby. The Eagles won in the fourth quarter, 36-35. Sparking a flame for the rest of the season, the Eagles went undefeated in the last five games and became District Champions.

All in all, the season was successful.

"I like to smash people: football is the only place I can do it legally... 'nough said."
-Phillip Cunningham

Coach Cunningham said, "This season has been a great experience, and I have had a lot of fun working with the kids at N.C. I couldn't ask for a greater group of guys who work hard for me." Jordan Ward said, "This year has been a lot of fun. There is nothing like being on a football team." Phillip Cunningham said," I like to smash people, football is the only place I can do it legally... 'nough said."

New and old meshed together as the season progressed, and by the end of the year, great friendships were born and synergy arose in the team.

-Braden Swanson

US		THEM
6	Leigh	42
26	Spalding/SPA	52
6	Exeter/Milligan	18
36	Shelby	35
34	Mead	16
38	Cedar Bluffs	0
22	High Plains	20
38	Palmer	26

Head Coach: Clint Cunningham
Coach's Aides: Matt Murphy and Andy Faeh
Conference Honors:
1st Team: Jordan Ward, Samuel Stuhmer, Sam Krug, Ryan Weedin
2nd Team: Riley Garwood, Mike Swanson, Phillip Cunningham
Honorable Mention: Ryan Weedin, Mike Swanson, Jerry Lobeda, Samuel Stuhmer, Jake Tonniges

Above- Offensive end ***Jordan Ward*** *leaps for the football and catches it for the first down. Ward started the year playing quarterback but switched to end during the season.*
Right- Linebackers ***Mike Swanson*** *and* ***Sam Krug*** *help defensive lineman* ***Luke Faeh*** *get to the ball carrier.*

-all photos by Dan Huenefeld

Below- Lineman **Riley Garwood** makes an outstanding block for running back **Samuel Stuhmer** during the game against Exeter/Milligan. As the Eagles started off the season, the tough loss against Exeter/Milligan was a final straw in a three-game losing streak. It proved to be their final loss of the season.

"It was a little different this year playing running back instead of quarterback, but I liked it better."
-Cody Lobeda

Left- On special teams, **Ryan Weedin** punts the ball on fourth down. Weedin said, "We may have started out slow, but we pulled it together for our remaining games."

Right- Linebacker **Phillip Cunningham** sacks the Shelby quarterback. The defense put pressure on the quarterback the whole game leading to an exciting victory.

Left- In the junior varsity game against Hampton, a defensive lineman helps linebacker **Levi Dixon** make a tackle. Hampton came away with the win in overtime. The JV ended the season with a record of 2-1. Because of a shortage of players, they couldn't play against Shelby or Elba.

Below- Quarterback **Jerry Lobeda** throws the ball to one of the Eagle receivers during the Shelby game. **Ryan Weedin** looked on as **Phillip Cunningham** and **Mike Swanson** blocked a defender from getting to their quarterback.

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Coach Clint Cunningham, Ryan Weedin, Jake Tonniges, Sam Krug, Riley Garwood, Jordan Ward, Phillip Cunningham, Jeremy Lutes Row 2: Coach's Aide Matt Murphy, Joseph Lee, Samuel Stuhmer, Daniel Jang, Jon Ritta, Mike Swanson, Cody Lobeda Row 3: student manager James Davis, Ray Johnson, Braden Swanson, Zach Troester, Levi Dixon, Jerry Lobeda, Caden Huenefeld (not pictured: Luke Faeh, Coach's Aide Andy Faeh, student manager Josiah Dixon)

Unite for the Fight

One returning starter. Two new coaches. Ten brand-new players. Twenty-six girls. One team.

*Above- **Alli Griess** jumps into the air to receive a high, hard incoming serve from the Elba Bluejays. The Lady Eagles struggled with serve receive, but they improved greatly during the season.*

At first glance, the 2005 volleyball season appeared to be a lesson in humility. With a new coaching staff, ten players brand new to volleyball on the high school level, and only one returning starter, the year was bound to be tough.

The strain of a difficult season had potential to threaten the team's unity; however, the girls did not let that happen. Instead, the team will be remembered as one of the most unified in years. Every girl, no matter what her experience level, pulled together, and each one gave the best she had to offer. Stacey Krieger suffered a sprained ankle on the first day of practice and was out for most of the season. "I was really disappointed that I couldn't play, but it was fun to watch while I sat on the side," Krieger said. She, along with the other players on the bench, strengthened the team through unselfishly supporting her teammates on the court. Such attitudes were a big part of the team's unity, binding both starters and supporters together. Ashley Miller summarized the spirit of the team well, saying, "Through losing we developed a sense of camaraderie that we couldn't have had otherwise."

"Through losing, we developed a sense of camaraderie that we couldn't have had otherwise."

-Ashley Miller

-Emily Murphy, Elizabeth Griess, Holly Murphy

OPPONENT	W/L
Heartland Lutheran	L
St. Edward	L
NE Lutheran	L
High Plains	L
North Loup Scotia	L
Cross County	L
Osceola	L
Heartland Lutheran	L
Elba	L
Spalding/SPA	L
Fullerton	W
Newman Grove	L
Hertland Lutheran	L
St. Edward	L
Greeley/Wolbach	L
Cedar Rapids	L
Arcadia	L

Head Coach: Charissa Smith
Assistant Coach: Kim Woods
Conference Honors:
2nd Team: Holly Murphy

Photo by Tim Nichols

*Above- **Elizabeth Griess** tips the ball over the net and over the block of her opponent. The pressure of being a freshman on varsity didn't phase Griess, who was a big contributor on the front row. Right- Up against a double block, **Holly Murphy** smoothly places the ball through the hands of her High Plains defenders. The ball sailed through the block, but the Eagles couldn't sail by the Titans. The girls lost in three hard-fought sets.*

Below- *Arms extended,* **Lesley Ribbens** *drops to her knees to receive a serve while* **Danielle Richards** *anxiously looks on. Ribbens, a sophomore, began the year setting for JV but was later promoted to the starting setter for varsity.*

"The highlight of my season was the second set of the Osceola game. It was all seniors and we united and won the set. It was awesome!"
-Annie Nickel

Photo by Tim Nichols

"My favorite part of the year was playing U.S.A. in practice, and WINNING the game against Fullerton on October 4."
-Clarice Schweitzer

"Why do I play volleyball? Because I love it and a losing season didn't take away that love- it strengthened it."
-Becca Brill

"This year was the best year of seniors! I loved spending time with the them. They were awesome to play with."
-Michelle Clement

Photo by Tim Nichols

Below- *During a break between games,* **Assistant Coach Kim Woods** *encourages a tired group of JV girls to keep playing with intensity and teamwork against Palmer. The JV learned a lot about the value of those two things throughout the season, and many first-time players saw encouraging development in their game.*

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: student manager Ashley Stone, Ashley Miller, Becca Brill, Annie Nickel, Charice Schweitzer, Heather Smith, Holly Murphy, Laura Reimer, student manager Abby Perez Row 2: Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Smith, Alli Griess, Stacey Krieger, Michelle Clement, Amanda Liegl, Ashley Faeh, Lesley Ribbens, Beth Ignowski, Brittney Shepherd Row 3: Elizabeth Griess, Katie Beck, Kelsey Selden, Audra Faeh, Sarah Perez, Lacy Tonniges, Karrah Miller, Emily Murphy, Rebecca Woods Row 4: Assistant Coach Kim Woods, Coach Charissa Smith

Leading by Example

Seniors and coaches push for excellence.

*Above- Lifting his opponent in the air during a finals match, **Ryan Weedin** works on getting his points. This was the first year that NC had special singlets for finals matches which the team wore frequently because of their success in pre-finals rounds.*

Excellence characterized the 2005-2006 wrestling season. Jake Tonniges said, "This year we had one of the largest and most experienced teams." Over the eight year history of the team, the NC wrestling program has developed and matured into a quality program, and the 2005-2006 season was the pinnacle of the team's success thus far.

Six seniors provided the core of the team and pushed the underclassmen in every single practice. Ryan Weedin said, "We tried to encourage the underclassmen to work hard while improving ourselves." Freshman Braden Swanson said, "I was motivated by the seniors. They made the wrestling season much more enjoyable and helped me improve greatly."

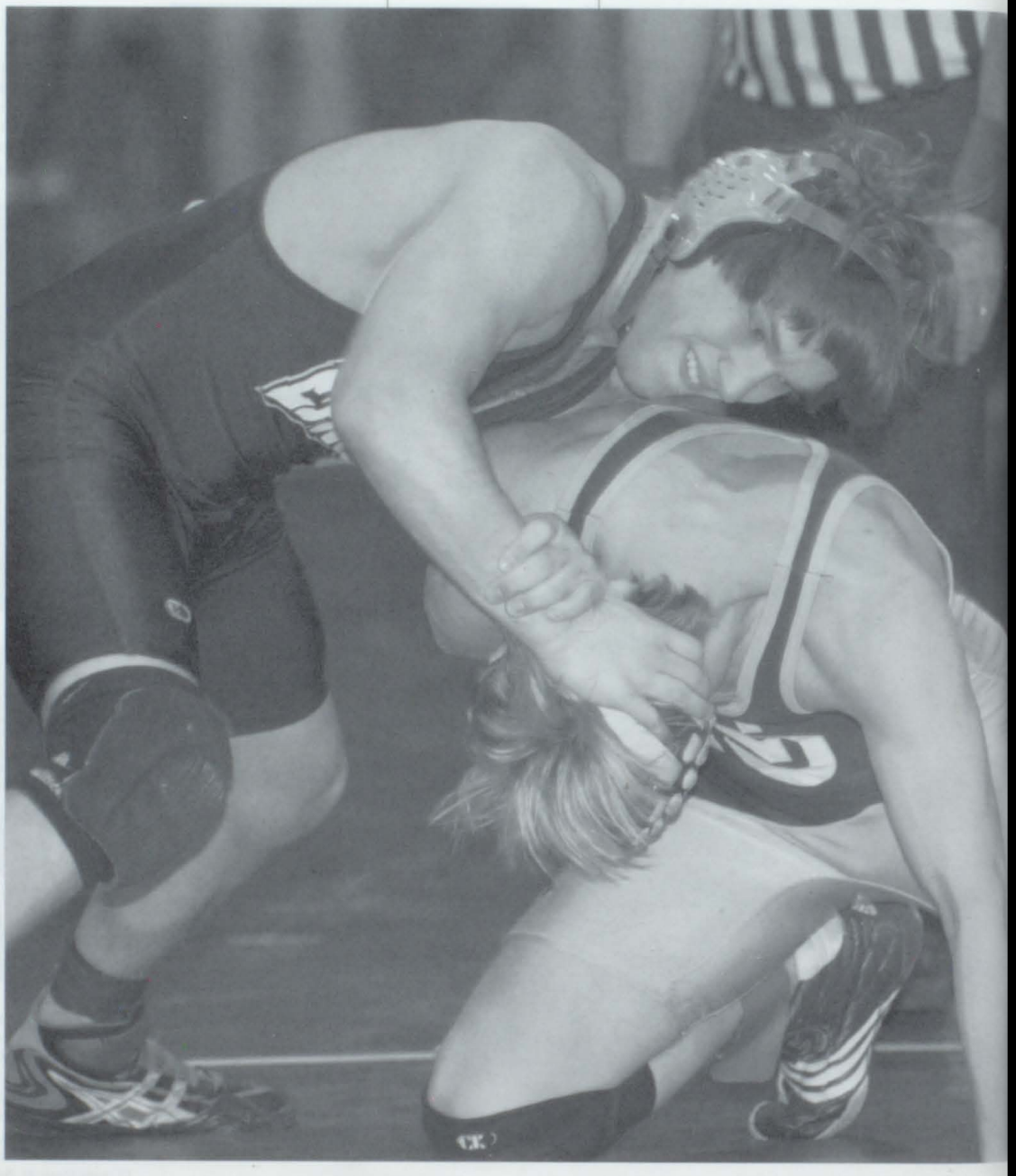
"I was motivated by the seniors. They made the wrestling season much more enjoyable and helped me improve greatly."
-Braden Swanson

Not only did the seniors play a vital role in the team's success, but the coaching was also a huge factor. Though Coach Terry Elge has been out of high school for a few years, no one on the team could beat him. Some attempted to challenge him, but always came up short. Coach Griepenstroh provided a tough matchup with even the most experienced wrestlers on the team.

The strong leadership and good coaching provided for an excellent season. Of all the NC wrestling teams, the 2005-2006 squad will most certainly stand out as one of the best. -Bill Griepenstroh

Wt.	Name	Record
103	Braden Swanson	7-20
125	Ram Lee (JV)	2-5
130	Ray Johnson	4-17
135	Caden Huenefeld	28-11
140	Bill Griepenstroh	22-8
140	Jerry Lobeda (JV)	6-8
145	Phillip Cunningham	29-8
152	Cody Lobeda	13-13
152	Levi Dixon (JV)	3-19
160	Mike Swanson	30-13
171	Sam Krug	16-7
171	Caleb Coleman (JV)	2-11
189	Jake Tonniges	16-9
189	Jon Ritta (JV)	13-13
215	Ryan Weedin	20-13
275	Tim Coleman	9-18

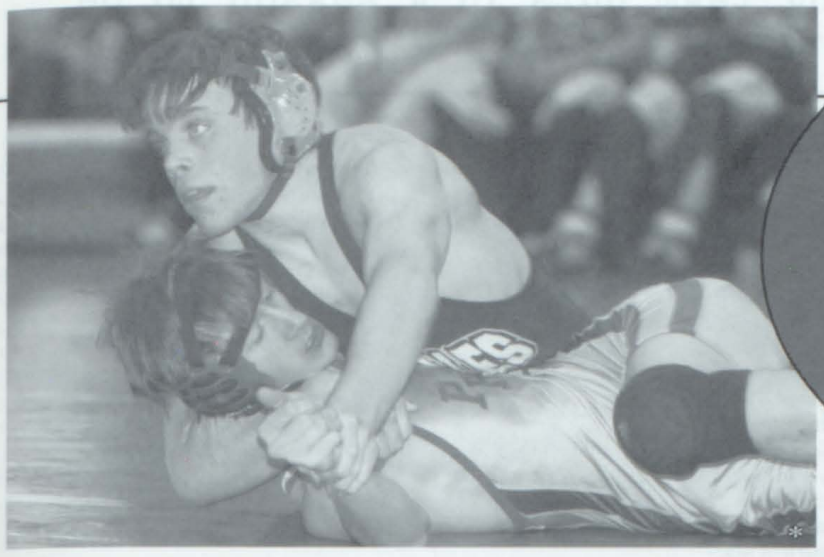
Head Coach: Terry Elge
Coach's Aide: Scott Griepenstroh
State Qualifiers: Phillip Cunningham, Bill Griepenstroh, Caden Huenefeld, Mike Swanson



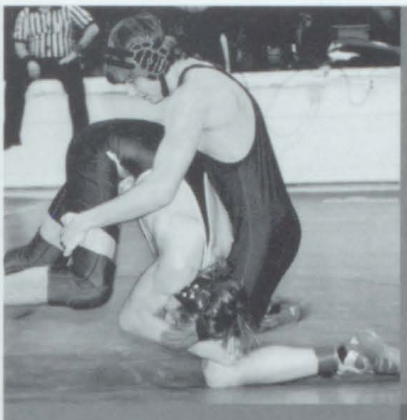
*Above- **Mike Swanson** becomes the 2nd wrestler in NC history to medal at the state tournament. He surprised everyone, including himself, first by making it to state, then by snagging a 6th place medal.*
*Right- **Phillip Cunningham** uses his favorite defensive move, the three-quarters nelson in order to prevent his opponent from receiving a takedown. Cunningham, a four-time state qualifier, finished the season with several new school records including career wins and career takedowns.*

❄ *Photo by Dan Huenefeld*

Below- **Bill Griepenstroh** holds his adversary from Ponca down for a pin in their 140 pound match at the annual Greeley/Wolbach tournament. Griepenstroh went on to place 1st in the tournament with a win over Devin Smith of Osceola.



"Having a mid-season injury is always tough to come back from, but I worked hard and managed to finish well." -Sam Krug



Left- **Levi Dixon** *uses his long reach in order to defend a shot. Dixon said, "Wrestling was the hardest sport I went out for, but I wouldn't think twice about going out again next year."*

Right- **Mike Swanson** *forces his adversary to cradle up and hold on for dear life to avoid being put in a very painful hold known as the banana splits. Swanson said, "The banana splits is a Swanson thing," referring to his older brother Tod's tendency to use the move when he was in high school.*

Photo by Dan Huenefeld

Left- **Caden Huenefeld** *finds a creative way to gain a pin. Huenefeld did well as a sophomore, finishing with one of the best records on the team and going to state for the second year in a row.*

Photo by Dan Huenefeld

Below- *2005-2006 state qualifiers, left to right: Caden Huenefeld, Mike Swanson, Phillip Cunningham, Bill Griepenstroh*

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Tim Coleman, Phillip Cunningham, Bill Griepenstroh, Sam Krug, Ryan Weedin Row 2: student manager Shelby Elge, Caden Huenefeld, Mike Swanson, Jon Ritta, Cody Lobeda, student manager Beth Ignowski Row 3: Coach Terry Elge, Ray Johnson, Braden Swanson, Levi Dixon, Caleb Coleman, Coach's Aide Scott Griepenstroh (not pictured: Ram Lee, Jerry Lobeda, Jake Tonniges)

Pressing Forward

A hard-working team puts in a season to be proud of, anticipating next year.

*Above- In the scramble for the ball, **Byron Reimer** forces his way past his Cross County defender. Reimer, a freshman, showed a great deal of potential in the JV games and in a few varsity appearances.*

The basketball season certainly began with mixed expectations. On the one hand, players expected inexperience to be an obstacle. As Coach Dave Reimer put it, they were "a little green." On the other hand, the younger athletes were excited to fill the vacant spots on the varsity team. The result was a season of improvements and achievements.

When asked if the adjustment from JV to varsity was difficult, Samuel Hwang said with a smile, "No, because I was good." The confident young athletes were all ready to do their part. Jordan Ward, the senior team leader, was a huge factor in the Eagle's success as well.

"We were a little inexperienced, but got better towards the end of the season. Hopefully we'll do better next year."
-Samuel Stuhmer

Throughout the season, the Eagles put in some outstanding performances. The basketball team met and exceeded expectations, and those younger players who stepped up to the plate were optimistic about the next season. "We were a little inexperienced, but got better towards the end of the season. Hopefully we'll do better next year," said Samuel Stuhmer.

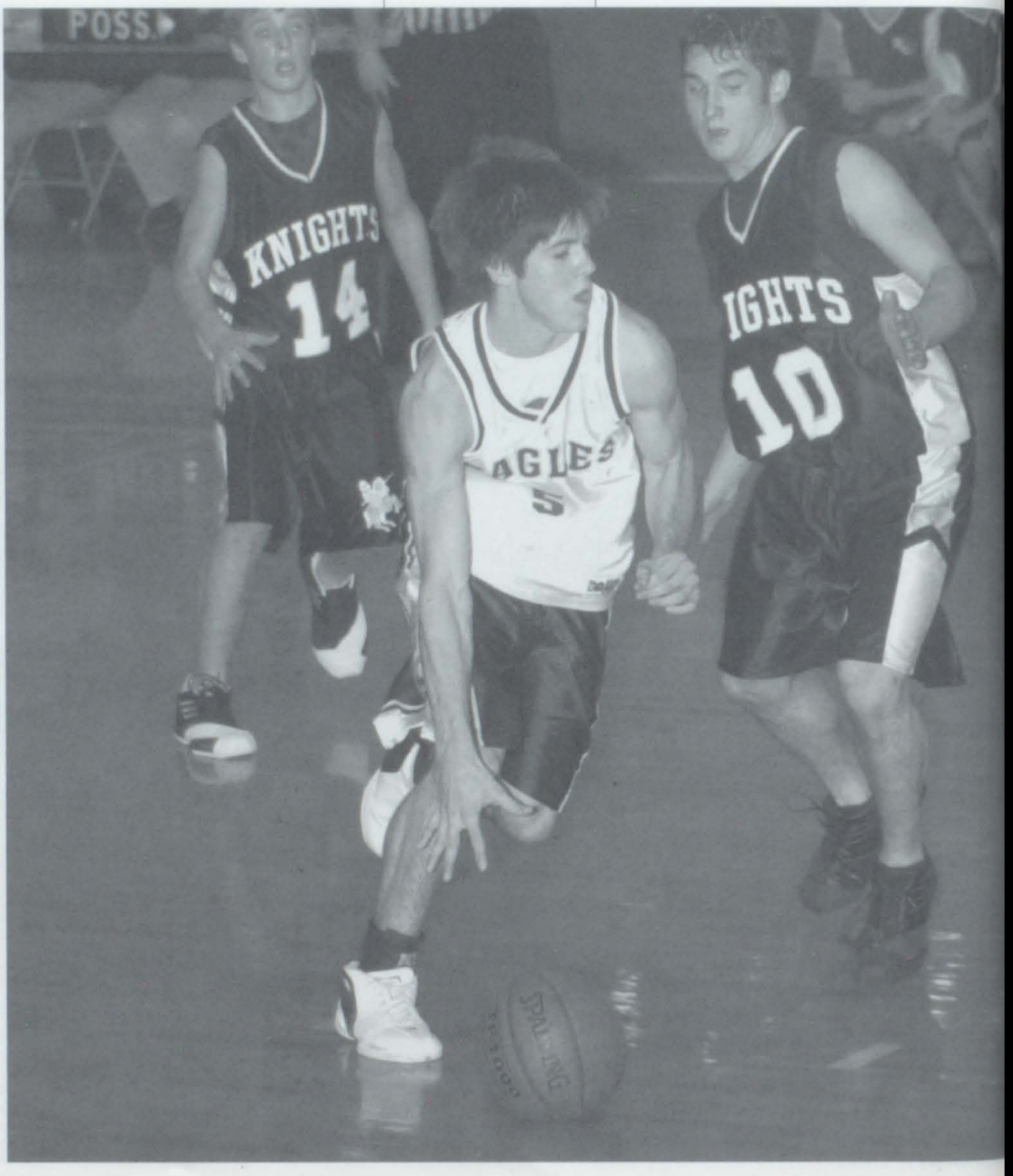
With varsity experience and returning starters, the Eagles knew they'd be ready to roll next season. Watch out, Ravenna.

-Holly Murphy

Opponent	W/L
St. Edward	L
Elba	W
Heartland Lutheran	W
High Plains	L
Giltner	W
St. Edward	L
North Loup/Scotia	W
Fullerton	L
Osceola	L
Spalding/SPA	W
Heartland Lutheran	L
Cross County	L
Cedar Rapids	L
Greeley/Wolbach	W
NE Lutheran	L
Palmer	W
Shelby	L
Burwell	W
Ravenna	L

Head Coach: Dave Reimer
Coach's Aide: Jeff Hanke
Conference Honors:
1st Team: Jordan Ward
Honorable Mention: Samuel Hwang, Samuel Stuhmer

Photo by Tim Nichols



*Above- Springing into the air, **Luke Faeh** soars above the mass of players battling for the rebound as he reaches for the ball. Faeh was a critical factor beneath the basket, helping secure rebounds for the team.*
*Right- Driving around the Knight defending him, **Jordan Ward** skillfully maneuvers down the court. The only senior starter for most of the season, Ward was praised by his coaches for his superior leadership skills and willingness to work with less experienced players.*

Below- Pausing after a game to give the glory to God, the Eagles kneel beside their opponents, the Greeley/Wolbach Titans. Praying after games was a way for Nebraska Christian to be "salt and light" in all their athletic competitions.

"Our team was like a pack full of wolverines riding unicycles on a basketball court."
-Josh Bailey

Photo by Tim Nicholas

Photo by Tim Nicholas

Left- **Samuel Hwang** has eyes only for the hoop as he shoots the ball over an opponent's attempted block. Hwang was a force to contend with at the three-point line all season long. Greatly improved from last year, the junior will help lead the Eagles into the next season.

Right- Speeding down the court, **Casey Rose** keeps the ball under control as he waits for the JV team to set up their offense. Rose joined the basketball team later in the season, but he quickly became a necessary part of the JV team.

Photo by Tim Nicholas

Left- **Drew Hanke** leaps into the air to catch a pass from his teammate, taking care to keep the ball high above his head and away from his Spalding defenders. He played a big role in knocking out the Knights, 68-58. Hanke was selected as the "Most Improved" player on the team and will be another talented athlete returning for the '06-'07 season.

Below- Pushing his way past a Greeley/Wolbach player, **Samuel Stuhmer** proves that even a Titan is no match for him. Stuhmer took the ball to the hoop, and the Eagles decisively defeated the Titans.

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Luke Faeh, Samuel Stuhmer, David Trinh, Jordan Ward, Samuel Hwang, Drew Hanke, Head Coach Dave Reimer Row 2: Ho Wai Ng, Matt Ryan, Josh Bailey, John Wong, Wai Wong, Shugo Sato Row 3: Zach Troester, Kiel Hansen, Jacky Lung, Byron Reimer Row 4: Hiro Ito, Masa Watase, Joseph Kim, Fred Lee (not pictured: David Lee, Fei Cheng, Bruce Chen, Wes Kembel, Coach's Aide Jeff Hanke)

Taking a Shot

Young players focus on fundamentals.

Photo by Tim Nicholas

*Above- **Kelli Garwood** drives in for a lay-up despite the efforts of a High Plains defender. Garwood grew from her last year of basketball saying, "It was a character-building experience."*

With their work cut out for them, Head Coach Paul McHargue and Coach's Aide Frank Rodriguez entered another long season of basketball with a boatload of energy. Along with the new season came new players. Five freshmen, one sophomore, a junior, and six seniors brought the team to a grand total of thirteen. When asked about the team, senior Sydney Zaruba said, "I love my team. We're very close, and it was a fun year."

A lot of the season's training revolved around preparation, mostly due to the fact that there were so many freshmen on the team. The girls also had to work extra hard to stay in shape. With such a small team, they didn't get subbed out very often.

"I love my team. We're very close, and it was a fun year."
-Sydney Zaruba

Since their season wasn't the best, the Lady Eagles learned to look past their record. Their focus was on learning and glorifying God through their talents and attitudes. They were rewarded by winning the Conference Sportsmanship Award.

The team's spirit was contagiously energizing, creating a fun and friendly atmosphere. Their spirit showed through on and off the court, proving that sometimes the biggest lessons learned go deeper than the scoreboard. -Emily Murphy and Elizabeth Gries

OPPONENT	W/L
Palmer	L
St. Edward	L
Elba	L
Heartland Lutheran	W
High Plains	L
Giltner	L
St. Edward	L
Lindsay Holy Family	L
North Loup/Scotia	L
Fullerton	L
Osceola	L
Spalding/SPA	L
Heartland Lutheran	L
Cross County	L
Cedar Rapids	L
Shelby	L
Greeley/Wolbach	L
Nebraska Lutheran	L
Harvard	L

Head Coach: Paul McHargue
Coach's Aide: Frank Rodriguez
Conference Honors:
3rd Team: Kelli Garwood
Honorable Mention: Sydney Zaruba

Photo by Tim Nicholas

*Above- **Laura Reimer** keeps her hands held high in a strong defensive position. Reimer's height and leadership added greatly to the team.*
*Left- During the game against Cross County, **Sydney Zaruba** fights to gain control of the ball. Zaruba as a four-year varsity player provided much-needed experience on and off the court.*

*Below- **Laura Reimer** pulls up to assist teammate **Kelli Garwood** in fighting for the ball. It turned out to be a close game, with the Elba Blue Jays barely taking the win.*

"The highlight of my first basketball season was when Laura Reimer shot and made her first and only 3-pointer in our last game."

-Karrah Miller

*Left- During a home game against Cedar Rapids, **Amy Thiessen** goes full speed down court to set up the offense. Thiessen sat out half the year due to the 90 day eligibility rule but was a great benefit to the team when she finally took the court.*

*Right- Another player somewhat new to the game **Elizabeth Griess** concentrates on the basket before shooting another free-throw. Griess learned fast and worked her way into an occasional starting position for the varsity.*

*Left- After burning the defense on a drive to the basket, **Emily Murphy** sinks a jump shot. Murphy battled injuries throughout the year but pulled through and became a great asset to the team.*

Photo by Tim Nicholas

*Below- **Danica Woods** guards the ball from an opposing Shelby player. Woods, as a first-year player for Nebraska Christian, contributed to the character and performance of the team.*

Photo by Tim Nicholas

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Danica Woods, Amy Thiessen, Kelli Garwood, Sydney Zaruba, Holly Murphy, Laura Reimer Row 2: Student manager Stacey Krieger, Rebecca Woods, Brittany Epp, Chrissy Ritta, Karrah Miller Row 3: Emily Murphy, Elizabeth Griess (not pictured: Coach Paul McHargue, Coach's Aide Frank Rodriguez)

Running the Race

Track season progresses well in spite of bad weather and absent athletes.

*Above- **Lesley Ribbens** heaves the shot put as far as her strength will allow. Although this was her first year participating in track, Ribbens improved throughout the year and ended the season well.*

Track season is generally not known for outstanding weather. While many students think they will be basking in the sun, they usually end up freezing in the cold and harsh Nebraska wind.

This year was no exception, beginning with a meet being cancelled due to three feet of snow. When asked what motivated him to go out for track this year, Mike Swanson said, "Track is a good way to get out of school and get a tan before summer starts."

Once the snow melted and the season started, the freshmen and sophomores went to Washington D.C., which left the team with two girls and five guys.

"Track is a good way to get out of school and get a tan before summer starts."
-Mike Swanson

Many new, talented athletes were added this year, and after they returned from the D.C. trip, the young athletes added enthusiasm and athleticism to the team.

At conference, the guys and girls did a great job, dominating the field and running events, and each team drove on to a second place finish.

At districts, Michelle Clement was the only state qualifier. When asked her opinion about that, Clement stated "I was happy that I made it to state but I really didn't want to go alone."

-Jake Tonnig

Meet	Girls	Boys
North Loup/Scotia	10 of 10	7 of 10
High Plains	9 of 15	7 of 15
Palmer	5 of 11	3 of 11
Goldenrod Conf.	2 of 9	2 of 9
St. Edward	2 of 14	8 of 14
Districts	5 of 9	8 of 9

Head Coaches: Larry Hoff and Scott Johnson
Coaches' Aides: Ben Umruh, Larry Schreiber, and Jeff Hanke
State Qualifier: Michelle Clement in triple jump

*Above- **Michelle Clement** concentrates on her footwork for the triple jump. Clement qualified for state in the triple jump for the second year in a row and placed fourth at state.*
*Right- **Luke Faeh** uses his incredibly long legs to jump over the hurdles, or in his case, step. Faeh competed in 300 m hurdles, triple jump, and the 4x4 relay.*

Below- Pole vaulter **Ashley Miller** attempts to clear opening height at the track meet in Osceola. Because of experience gained last season, Miller placed fourth in her first pole vaulting competition of the year.

"It was nice having more throwers this year, so I actually tried."
-Jake Tonniges

Left- **Samuel Stuhmer** presses on to finish the race. With speed and agility in many events, Stuhmer was a valuable asset to the team.

Right- Flying high, **Cody Lobeda** leaps as far as his legs will allow. When asked how he felt about track, Lobeda replied, "Track is fun because you get out of school."

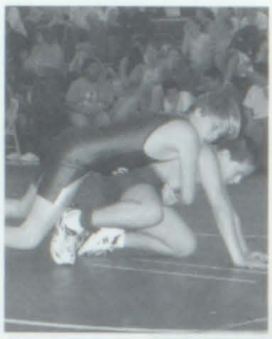
Left- **Shelby Elge** pushes herself to complete the race. Staying in shape was easy for Elge who was in gymnastics all year long.

Below- Soaring over the hurdles, **Matt Ryan** finishes the last leg of the 100 m hurdles. Being his first year out for track, Ryan did well, learning new techniques and improving dramatically during the season.

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Student manager Sydney Zaruba, Jake Tonniges, Ashley Miller, Danica Woods, Sam Krug, student manager Annie Nickel, Head Coach Scott Johnson, Assistant Coach Larry Hoff Row 2: Lacy Tonniges, Rebecca Woods, Karrah Miller, Cody Lobeda, Mike Swanson, Braden Swanson, Jerry Lobeda, David Trinh, Kirk Rose Row 3: Kelsie Selden, Drew Hanke, Chrissy Ritta, Kristen Mott, Casey Rose, Eric Patten, Samuel Stuhmer Row 4: Michelle Clement, Jessica Bailey, Matt Ryan, Shelby Elge, Ali Galloway, Ashley Faeh, Lesley Ribbens, Darren Holzinger (not pictured: Assistant Coach Jeff Hanke, Luke Faeh)

Stepping up to Compete

Junior high boys relish the chance to compete for a variety of reasons.



*Above- **Adam Richardson** squeezes his opponent during his wrestling match. The junior high boys travelled to a few meets in the fall, including this one at Central Catholic in Grand Island.*

To junior high boys, sports are high on the priority list. Whether they excel or not, there is always something special about competing in interscholastic sports for the first time. Casey Beck said, "It was fun to learn how to play sports and be able to compete in them." In 2005-2006, the junior high boys had an opportunity to compete in cross country, wrestling, basketball, and track.

Basketball and track had many participants. Conversely, wrestling and cross country did not. When asked why he went out for cross country, Reed Hanke said, "My mom made me go out for cross country because she wanted me to get in shape. At first I hated it, but then, as the season progressed, I grew to like it more. Besides parental mandate, the junior high boys had their own motives for participating in sports. Beau Andrews said, "I went out for sports because I got to miss school, hang out with friends, and mess around."

"It was fun to learn how to play sports and to be able to compete in them."
-Casey Beck

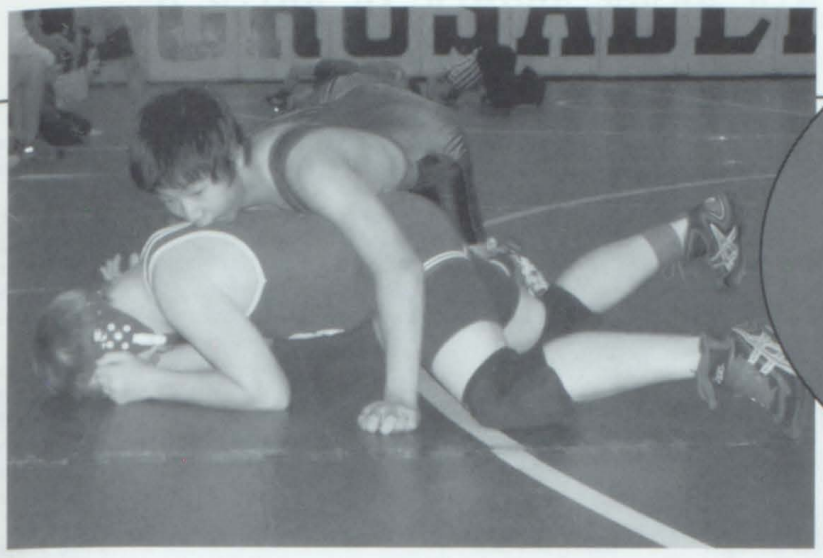
The chance to learn how to play sports and to also compete provided opportunities for the junior high boys to learn something new, to have fun with friends, and finally to enjoy great experiences that created unforgettable memories. -Bill Griepentrog

Sport	Record
Cross Country	N/A
Wrestling	N/A
Boys Basketball	1-8
Track	
*North Loup/Scotia	4th
*NC Invite	7th
*St. Edward Invite	8th
*Goldenrod Conference	4th

Cross Country Coach: Scott Johnson
Wrestling Coach: Terry Else
Basketball Coach: Larry Schreiber
Track Coach: Larry Schreiber

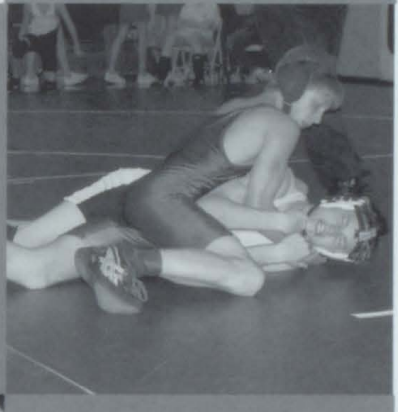
*Above- **Paul Ryu** sprints as quickly as he can in a preliminary heat for the 100m dash. Competing in short races and the long jump, Ryu did well at the meets in which he was able to participate. Right- Clearing the bar with no problem, **Reed Hanke** high jumps his way to a 3rd place finish at the NC Invite held in Central City. Hanke finished out the day competing in the 200m, 400m, and the 4x1 relay, placing in all three events.*

Below- Keeping his opponent down, **Paul Ryu** looks to defeat him. Ryu wrestled for the first time as an 8th grader and excelled, going undefeated.



"I went out for cross country because I enjoy running."
-Nathan Ritta

*Left- **Scott Ritta** passes the ball to his teammate **Paul Ryu**. The boys struggled to put points on the board at the beginning of the season but steadily improved through each game.*



***Right- James Davis** desperately tries to turn his adversary, hoping to get a pin. Davis competed in every possible meet as 7th grader as he looked forward to joining the high school team in 9th grade.*

*Left- Driving around his defenders, **Beau Andrews** works his way toward the basket during a game with the High Plains Storm. Andrews was new to Nebraska Christian and provided needed skills for the boys basketball team.*

*Below- **Daniel Hoops** sails through the air in his second jump in the long jump competition. His shoes were slightly too long and caused him to accidentally scratch on his first attempt. However, Hoops's 2nd and 3rd attempts were both successful.*

Above- Junior high boys sports participants, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Cody Lawson, Scott Ritta, Nathan Ritta, Adam Richardson, Elliot Murphy Row 2: Casey Beck, Jordan McHargue, Beau Andrews, James Davis Row 3: Christopher Toukan, Daniel Hoops, Reed Hanke, Paul Ryu

Making it Count

Junior high girls enjoy sports in spite of losses.

*Above- Sitting up from her cocoon of blankets, **Michelle Toukan** looks around to see if her event was called. The track meet day was cold and gray and left the kids freezing while they waited for their events.*

What happens when you take a group of bubbly seventh and eighth grade girls and put them together? For the Nebraska Christian junior high girls, it was loads of fun. Adding to the excitement, the girls were coached by upperclassmen.

Charice Schweitzer took on the task of junior high volleyball, assisted by Ashley Faeh. "Volleyball was one of the best sports of the year. Even though we lost, we always had fun and a positive attitude," Carly Lobeda said. In spite of the losing record, they enjoyed working together as a team.

Their basketball season was put in the hands of Sydney Zaruba. Even though the 1-8 record was not a very good one, they had improved skills to show for all the work they put in.

Track season provided an opportunity to be outside and spend time together as well as a chance to compete in individualized events. Their record had lower placings, overall, but they grew from the experience.

Some lessons are hard learned, and losing is usually one of them, but they used their energy wisely and for God's glory. Even when the games weren't going their way, these rambunctious girls had smiles on their faces and encouragement in their words.

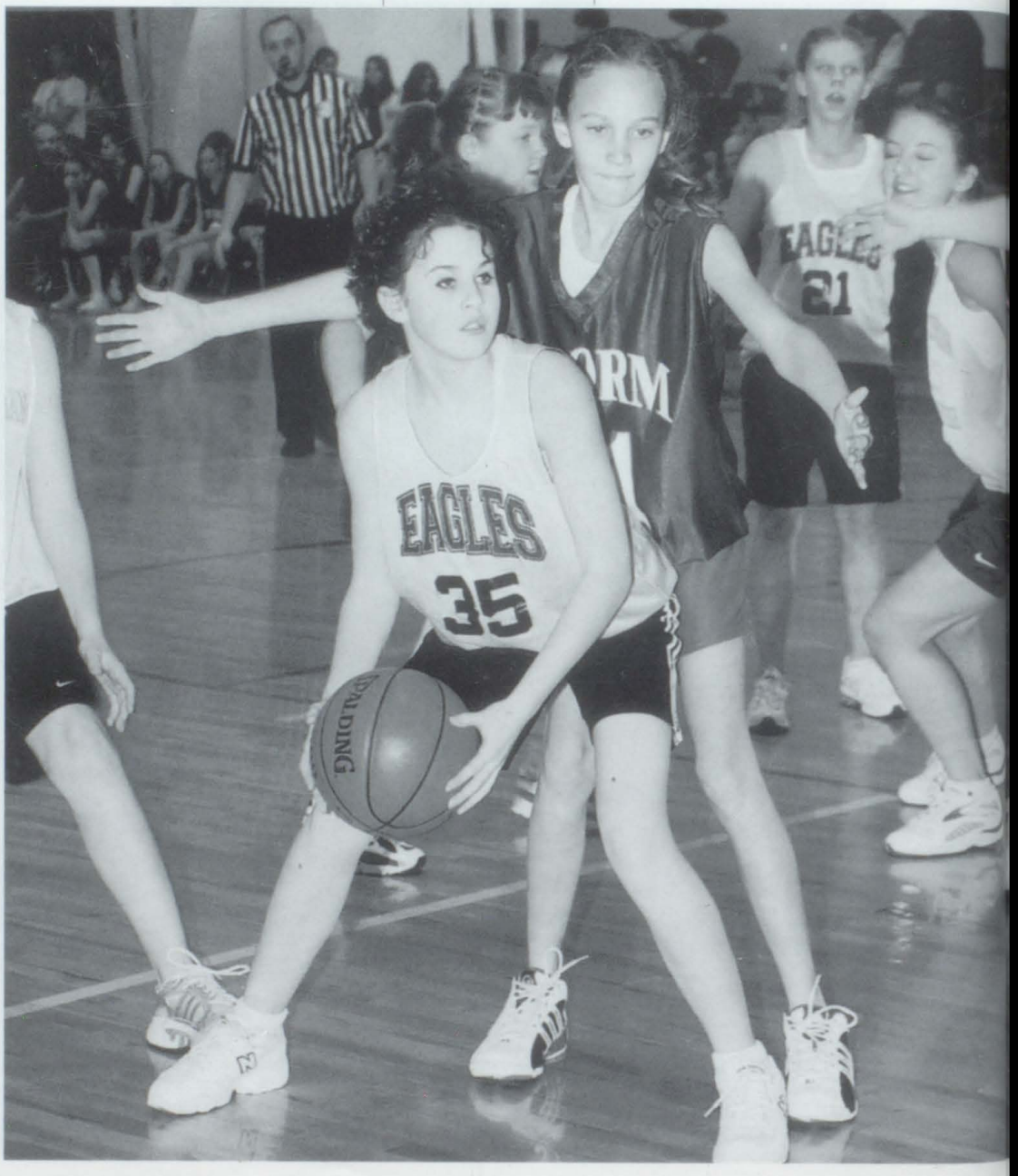
-Emily Murphy

"Volleyball was one of the best sports of the year. Even though we lost, we always had fun and a positive attitude."

-Carly Lobeda

Sport	Record
Volleyball	6-2
Basketball	0-5
Track	
*North Loup/Scotia	8th
*NC Invite	11th
*St. Edward Invite	7th
*Goldenrod Conference	6th

Volleyball Coaches: Charice Schweitzer and Ashley Faeh
Basketball Coach: Sydney Zaruba
Track Coach: Sydney Zaruba
**all coaches supervised by Larry Schreiber*



*Above- **Kala Walgren** prepares to back up **Amber Rainbolt** as she bumps the ball back over the net to the other team. Junior high volleyball gave the girls a chance to learn how to play volleyball, so they could develop new skills before they got to high school.*
*Right- **Kelsey Shepherd** stalls the opposition as she scans the court for a team member in order to pass the ball down the court. Shepherd was a very competitive player and she helped the team pull together.*

Below- Diving quickly, **Alycea Unruh** hits the floor to get to the ball before it slams into the ground while **Katrina Troester** backs her up in case she needs help. Sharpening their skills for the upcoming volleyball seasons, the junior high girls played with determination.

"Our season wasn't the best, but we had a lot of fun and learned a lot!"
-Abbie Krug

Left- Running hard, **Katrina Troester** *races for the finish. She showed great will as she pushed her muscles to their limits.*

Right- Waiting patiently for their next competitions, **Carly Lobeda, Rebekah Poeffel,** *and* **Lyndsi Kembel** *lie about in the grass. The day was really windy and chilly, but the junior high pushed past the problems in order to give each competition their best.*

Left- Serving hard, **Lauren Hadenfeldt** *placed the ball down on the competition's court. Hadenfeldt proved her skills and was very competitive. Though she enjoyed winning, she was very uplifting to the team even in the midst of loss.*

Below- Running back and forth, **Taylor Sherwood** *guards her nemesis with Eagle ferocity. Sherwood proved she had great tenacity, but she had a blast out on the court. She encouraged the team when they were behind and cheered them on when they were ahead.*

Above- Left to right, front to back; Row 1: Lauren Hadenfeldt, Janelle Bailey, Alycea Unruh, Rebekah Poeffel, Sable Homolka, Row 2: Abbie Krug, Kendra Griepenstroh, Taylor Sherwood, Katrina Troester, Lyndsi Kembel Row 3: Amber Rainbolt, Carly Lobeda, Michelle Toukan, Kala Walgren, Kelsey Shepherd.

Breaking Out of the Rut

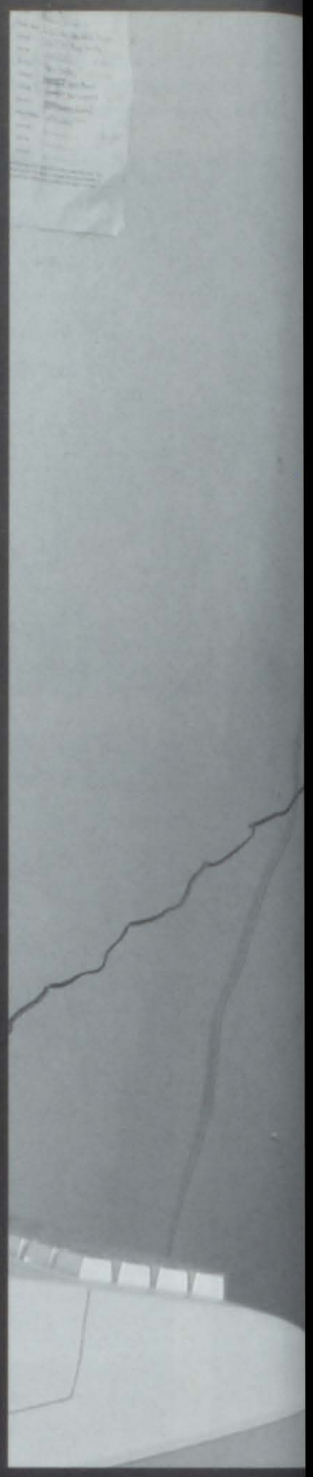
More than just a cereal, more than just a game, life was what happened to students from the moment they rolled out of bed in the morning until they finally closed their eyes at night. Life was the way they spent the 86,400 seconds God gave them every day (yes, even those seconds spent in algebra were a gift). Much of their time was devoted to studying, but outside of school, students used their seconds in many different ways.

With only a four-day week, the '05-'06 school year provided more opportunities than ever for students to experience life on their own terms. A huge portion of the student body had jobs and used the extra day to make a little money. And money was definitely a good thing, as gas prices soared to record highs during the year. "I spend $80 a week on gas, and I have to pay for it myself," Lesley Ribbens said, explaining why she had to work.

Kiel Hansen chose to spend his day off helping his mom. "I volunteer in my mom's classroom at the public school," Hansen said. "I help with crafts or with whatever she needs."

Breaking out of the rut wasn't just a way to "get-a-life"- it actually helped give a better life to others. Many NC students chose to spend their free time going on missions trips, helping out at AWANA, and investing in the lives of other people. Danica Woods spent a week ministering in Mexico with a team of NC seniors. "I loved hanging out with the kids and using my Spanish," she said. Woods and others who invested their lives in others lived the ultimate journey, using their seconds to hold out the Word of Life to the world.

- Holly Murphy



Above - *Celebrating holidays away from home can be tough, but* ***Shugo Sato*** *enjoyed himself despite being thousands of miles from home. Right-* ***Becca Brill*** *gives one of her little friends a ride. Brill went to New Orleans over summer break.*

"Dorm life is great. I love late nights, friends, and the food is pretty good, too!"
-Stacey Krieger

*Above- **Jinny Lee** and **Ayami Fukushi** enjoy an oriental version of Christmas dinner during the girls dorm Christmas party. The Aspegrens hosted the meal in their apartment before the Christmas break.*

*Above left- **Charice Schweitzer** braves the summer heat to sell fireworks at a local stand. Schweitzer worked along with her fellow classmates to earn money for their senior ski trip during the 10 days leading up to the Fourth of July. Another summer fundraiser included staffing the food stand at the Merrick County Fair at the end of July.*

*Above right- During her summer missions trip to New Orleans, **Abby Perez** takes a break by jumping rope. After several hours of working with young children, Perez was ready for much-needed time alone.*

Right- Struggling to find a foothold, **Bruce Chen** *climbs a rock while visiting Branson, Missouri. Below-* **Kelsey Shepherd** *washes her hands as she prepares to diligently wash the mirrors in the girls' dorm bathroom for her dorm job.*

Above- The boys and girls dorm residents, left to right, front to back; Row 1: Ruby Chang, Cheri Garwood, Amy Thiessen, Kelli Garwood, Alysia Brethouwer, Stacey Krieger, Brittany Epp, Kristen Mott, Amanda Liegl Row 2: Sarah Garwood, Jamie Li, Shan Yu, Ayami Fukushi, Jinny Lee, Hailey Kim, Arisa Chon, Ali Galloway, Brittney Shepherd Row 3: Lisa Osler, Henry Cheung, Ram Lee, David Lee, John Wong, Jaime Morales, Samuel Hwang, Paul Ryu, Kelsey Shepherd Row 4: Shugo Sato, Daniel Jang, Jacky Lung, Wai Wong, Ho Wai Ng, Fei Cheng, Bruce Chen Row 5: David Trinh, Masa Watase, Minh Dinh, Hiro Ito, Darren Holzinger, Joseph Lee (not pictured Riley Garwood, Tina Yang)

Above- **Tom Aspegren**, *the girls' dorm father, carefully stirs sizzling cabbage in order to make a special Chinese dish for the girls dorm Christmas Banquet. This was the Aspegrens last year as girls dorm parents.*

Above- Sharing a chuckle, roommates **Stacey Krieger** *and* **Alysia Brethouwer** *enjoy spending quality time together while savoring a delicious meal. Tom and Gina Aspegren, the girls' dorm parents, hosted a Christmas Banquet for the girls in their apartment.*

Changes and Busyness Define Dorms

The busyness of the dorm did not cease over the summer break. While the dorm students were away, a new computer room was added in the girls dorm, complete with six flatscreen computers. The boys dorm also added several new computers and moved them to the former lobby, which served as a computer and game center. On the outside of the girls dorm, a gazebo, a mini pond, and many flowers added beauty to the area. New trees and flowers gave the boys dorm color and increased the home away from home atmosphere of the area.

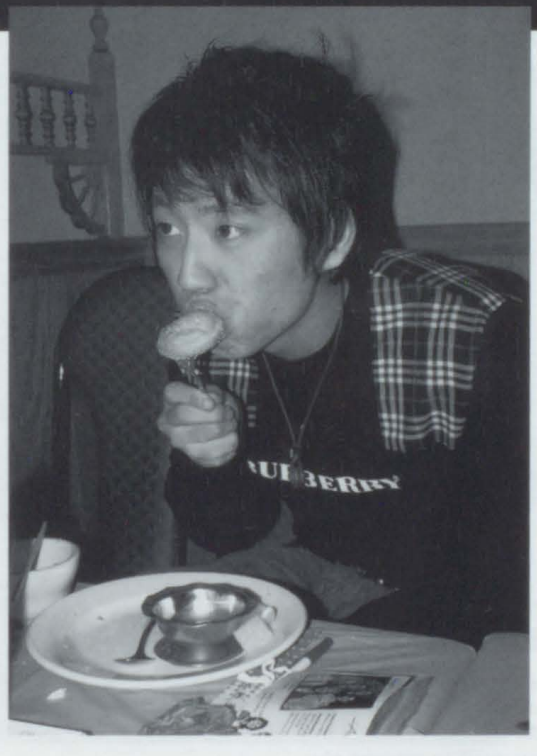
During the school year, days in the dorm were also hectic. Senior John Wong said, "Morning is the busiest because I have too much homework." Eighth grader Kelsey Shepherd said, "The busiest part of my day is the morning with taking a shower, picking clothes, and doing my hair." On the contrary, senior Lisa Osler answered, "After school is the busiest because there are a ton of things to do and people to see."

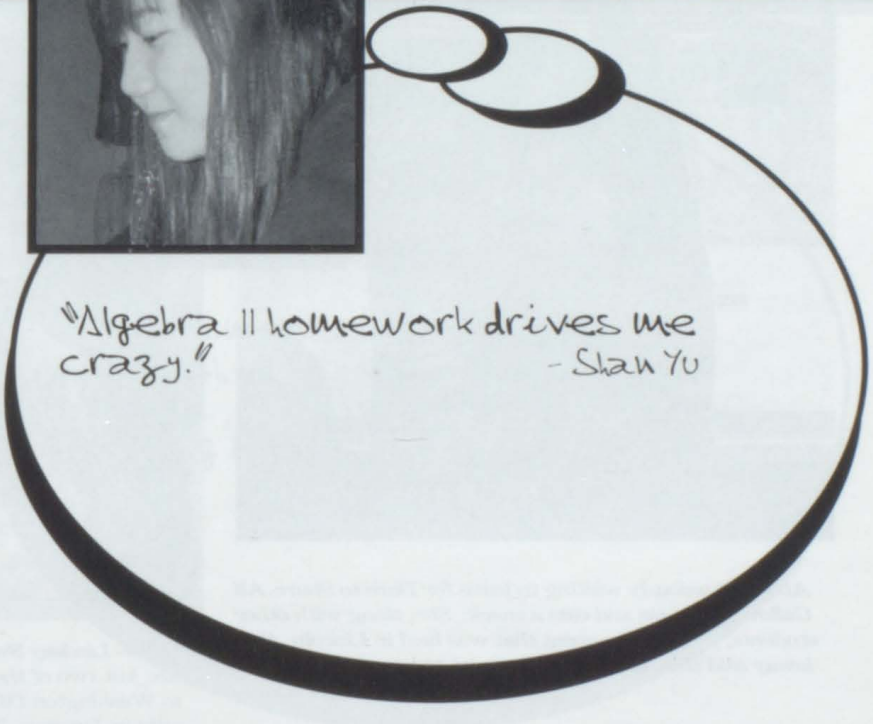
When asked what her favorite new aspect of the dorm was, junior Stacey Krieger replied, "I really like the new scenery with all the flowers and things." When asked what his favorite part of dorm life was, senior Bruce Chen said, "It's not like staying in someone else's house; you have your own room." Freshman Darren Holzinger answered the question by saying, "You don't have to worry about driving home after school."

Living in the dorm was not always easy. Dorm students had to learn to adjust to living with a roommate and to being away from home for a long period of time. On the other hand, long-lasting friendships that were developed over the course of the year helped ease the difficulty of these adjustments.

In the end, dorm life prepared dorm students for future adventures and challenges they might face, such as college life and learning how to get along with people of varied personalities.

-Cheri Garwood





*Above- **David Lee** devours a piece of fry bread at the Chinese Buffet House in Grand Island. The international dorm students and the NC staff and school board celebrated the Chinese New Year at the Buffet House.*

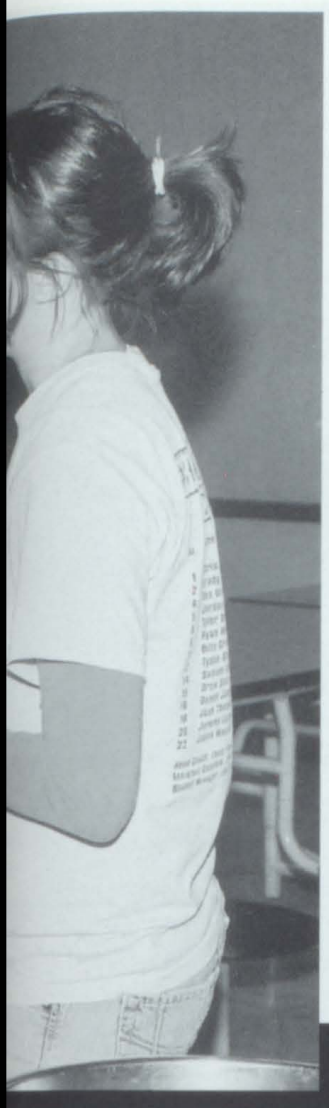
*Right- Raising money for the Mexico missions trip, Mrs. Cindy Brill, **Tyson Ratliff** and **Sarah Garwood** prepare to serve food during a basketball game.*

*Below- **Amy Thiessen**, a Mexico team member, shares how the Mexicans impacted her life. Other team members encouraged the student*

*Above- Anxiously waiting to leave for Dare to Share, **Ali Galloway** relaxes and eats a snack. She, along with other students, went to the event that was held in Lincoln. Galloway said that she learned how not to be scared to share her faith.*

*Above- **Lindsay Swanson** and **Ryan Weedin** are just two of the many seniors who went to Washington D.C. for The March for Life rally in January. They went to support the cause to end abortion.*

*Above- During the Dinner and Benefit Auction in March, **Beth Ignowski** serves the main entrée. Students volunteered to serve and clean up after the meal.*



Obeying the Call to Serve Christ

There is really no way to describe what it is like to travel to another country with the sole purpose of sharing the love of Christ with people who actually want and desperately need to hear the message. Annie Nickel, a student that has been on many mission trips, said, "The experience of another culture, another country, opened my eyes to the immense hunger for something more than the ordinary life. As Christians, we know what that is, so now we have to make it known." The experience is one that everyone needs, but few may actually have the opportunity to travel overseas. Another way to share their hope is for Christians to become salt and light in their own environments.

There is an incredible need for overseas missions; however, there is also an incredible need to be a light shining in the darkness of the United States. Christians are called to serve wherever God calls them to serve. Whether it is Vacation Bible School, summer camp, volunteering, random acts of kindness, or even leaving their comfort zone and going to another country, Christians share Christ's love through acts of service. As Stacey Krieger said, "I enjoy helping with AWANA because it is great to see the kids learn new Bible verses; they are eager to learn more. As a leader, it is my job to be an example for them to follow."

One consideration before deciding to live sold-out for Christ is that life when Jesus is driving is the biggest, most exhilarating roller coaster ride one could ever ride. There will be high points and low points, but it is the life that Christians were made to live.

This roller coaster will push its riders and take sudden drops and fast turns that will make them grow in their faith. Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Serving, whether in Nebraska or in another country, is what a Christian is called to do. Sometimes it isn't easy, but obeying that calling is what will bring the eternal rewards God promised in Colossians 3:24. An unknown missionary said, "Dear Lord, please use me. I want nothing more, I want nothing less, and I want nothing else."

-Becca Brill

"It was impossible not to fall in love with every kid I met in New Orleans. They had a crazy way of grabbing my heart."

-Abby Perez

Above- On the Mexico missions trip, ***Jake Tonniges*** *plays with the younger kids. This was Tonniges' second time to Mexico. When the team members went back this year, the kids remembered their names.*

Right- Relaxing after a difficult week of school, friends **Micah Unruh, Brice Necker, Truman Faeh,** *and* **Luke Faeh** *enjoy watching a movie that they made together.*

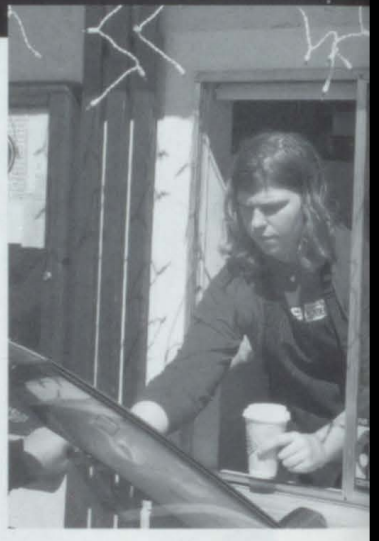
Top 10 things to do on the extra day off:

1. Work
2. Sleep
3. Hang out with friends
4. Play video games
5. Do homework
6. Read
7. Watch TV
8. Spend time with family
9. Hang out with Chuck Norris
10. Play computer

*139 people surveyed

Above- "Coach" **Sydney Zaruba** *watches a soccer game with one her little players while waiting for their game to begin. Zaruba helped coach a soccer team on Saturdays in the fall and also volunteered to coach the NC junior high girls basketball team and the junior high track team.*

Above- **Masa Watase** *perfects his skateboarding skills after school on a warm spring afternoon. The good weather tempted many of the dorm dwellers out-of-doors, where they played basketball, soccer, and baseball.*



Above- "Here's your coffee!" **Ashley Stone** *delivers a fresh and foamy latte to a waiting customer. Stone was employed at the Coffee Bean, a drive-through gourmet coffee shop in Central City, and spent much of her free time working.*

Using Precious Free Time

The second the final bell echoed down the halls of NC, a hundred different people went a hundred different ways. Free time was a precious (and rare) commodity to be used carefully, especially when school got stressful.

"I do something that doesn't involve my brain," Lindsay Swanson said about her free time. "Like watch chick flicks!" Charice Schweitzer said. After a long day of thinking, many students needed just a few minutes to do "absolutely nothing," in the words of Amy Thiessen.

Other students found a different way to relax after a long day at school. "I play Halo," Phillip Cunningham said. Video games definitely were a popular mode of forgetting, for a little while at least, the pressures of daily life.

"When it's nice out, I like to go outside," Ali Galloway remarked when asked how she spent her precious free time. The great outdoors did offer another method of "escape" for students. Bill Griepenstroh had an interesting way of combining stress-relief with nature. "In the spring, I go beat fish in the river with sticks," he said.

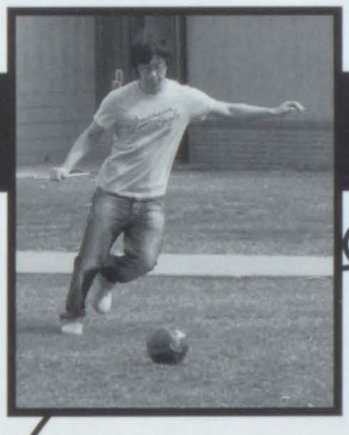
Other students preferred to spend their precious moments of freedom socializing. "I hang out with my friends," Sarah Garwood said. Talking and laughing about problems with friends helped lighten the mood; indeed, laughter truly proved to be one of the best medicines for easing pressure and making problems seem a little less menacing.

In actuality, the ways of escaping from the pressures of the day were as varied as NC's student body. "I drive around listening to music until I find something better to do," Erica Freeman said. "I play my drums," Ashley Stone said. "The angrier I am, the harder I play!" Laura Reimer preferred escaping the pressure by slipping into another world. "I read a good book and forget about everything," she said.

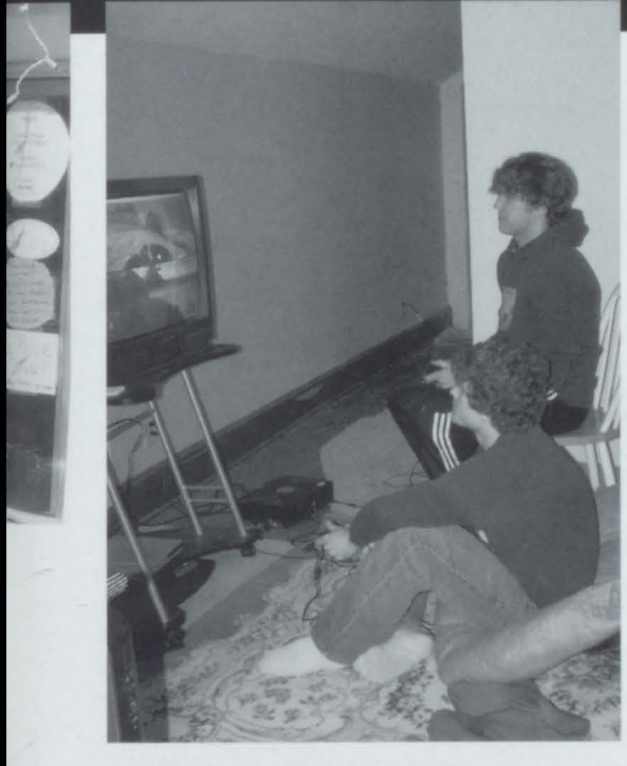
Of course, not all time away from school was "free time." Most NC students had jobs that ate up much of their week. During the spring, many NC boys spent part of their weekend participating in an intramural soccer league. Still other students were involved in motocross, gymnastics, and a huge variety of other time commitments outside of school.

In the words of C.S. Lewis, "The man can neither make, nor retain, one moment of time; it all comes to him by pure gift." Using the gift wisely was a challenge every student at Nebraska Christian faced. Many did indeed make the most of their precious moments of free time, grateful to the One who had given it to them.

-Holly Murphy



"I play soccer after school. The soccer season is really exciting." -David Lee



*Above- **Josh Bailey** and **Drew Hanke** are completely absorbed into the world of Halo 2. The boys were among many people from the student body who attended Bill Griepenstroh's weekend "Halo parties" at one time or another.*

Going the Extra Mile

Activities were all about taking life to the next level- stepping out, trying something new. That "something new" came in many shapes and sizes.

Everything was new to freshman Karrah Miller, who had been homeschooled her entire life until she became a part-time student at NC in the past year. When asked about the perks of attending a new kind of school, Miller said, "It was fun getting to know people and getting to do sports."

Whether trying new activities or getting more involved with old ones, students had many opportunities for enrichment. Of course, "Going the Extra Mile 101" wasn't an offered class, and no one received a grade for trying new things. However, the students who dove in experienced great rewards. "I was in Ensemble for the first time this year," Annie Nickel said. "I loved it because I got to sing every day, not just on choir days!" For Lisa Osler, speech was the activity that enriched her year. "Speech was awesome. I got to hang out with the underclassmen– mentor them. That made my year. I loved it!"

The different activities NC offered, such as speech, Student Council, homecoming, freshman/sophomore and senior trips, Junior/Senior Banquet, chapel, and graduation provided many opportunities for students to get involved. In activities, as in the rest of life, students got out of them what they put into them. The more effort put in, the more rewarding the experience. Going the extra mile really paid off!

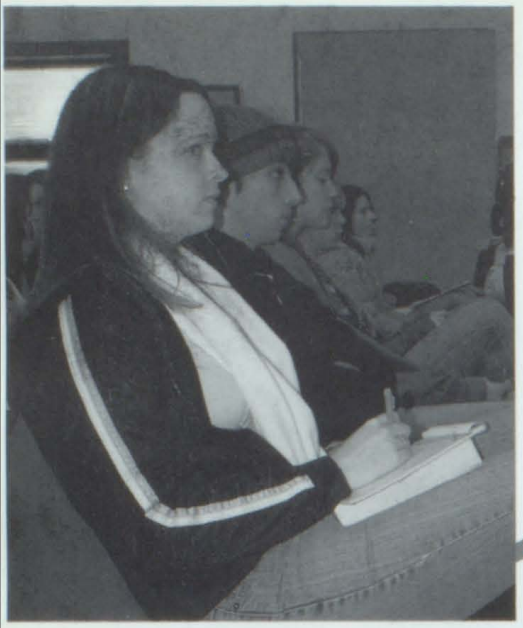
-Holly Murphy

*Above - **Heather Smith** wobbles on her snowboard as she waits for **Abby Perez** to untangle herself from the guide ropes. The two first-time snow boarders had a blast on the senior class trip. Right- Cousins **Sarah Garwood** and **Riley Garwood** march proudly toward freedom and their diplomas. The class of '06 left a powerful legacy.*

"My favorite part of speech this year was hanging out with Brice."
-Luke Faeh

*Above left- Helping to transform the NC gym into the mystical world of Narnia, **Alysia Brethouwer** helps to set up one of the many trees comprising the world beyond the wardrobe. The juniors put in hours of work decorating for the Junior/Senior Banquet, but the end result was well worth it.*
*Above right- "Look what I found!" **Kendra Griepenstroh** triumphantly holds up the egg she snatched from under the nose of her friend, **Sable Holmoka**, during the egg hunt put on by the Student Council. Students got out of classes early to scour the campus for plastic eggs.*

*Above - **Lauren Hadenfelt, Casey Beck, Beau Andrews, Nathan Ritta, Jordan McHargue, James Davis,** and **Elliot Murphy** use their musical talents to lead chapel singing. The junior high students helped whith the last chapel of the year.*



*Left- **Carmen Dockweiler** listens attentively in chapel. Taking notes helped students to pay attention and to get the most out of the message. Below- Students pray with the Puebla, Mexico team before they leave on their missions trip. **Mr. Dan Woods** said that anyone who would like to come up front and pray with the team was welcome.*

Students Appreciate the Opportunity to Focus on Christ

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23). Many students looked forward to having chapel each week because it was an opportunity to set aside other responsibilities and to focus on strengthening their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Different men and women sacrificed their time this past year to come speak to the NC student body. These volunteers shared their faith and insight. One of the students' favorite speakers was Ron Brown who challenged them at Spiritual Emphasis Day in the fall to be a soldier for Christ and to be real. "I appreciated Ron Brown's intensity," Kelli Garwood said. Several chapels in the spring featured personal testimonies by NC faculty and staff. Some ministries came to visit as well, including YWAM and Reign Ministries.

When asked what her favorite chapel was, Amanda Liegl said, "My favorite chapel was when the Speech class performed their skit, 'Satanism 101.' It illustrated how Satan tempts us every day of our lives, and also it really related to what I was going through that week."

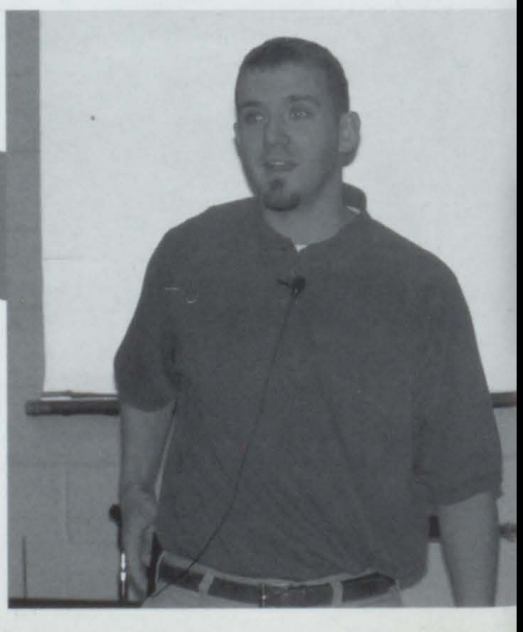
Students and teachers left chapel feeling refreshed, refocused, and on-fire for Christ, ready to share the hope inside of them.

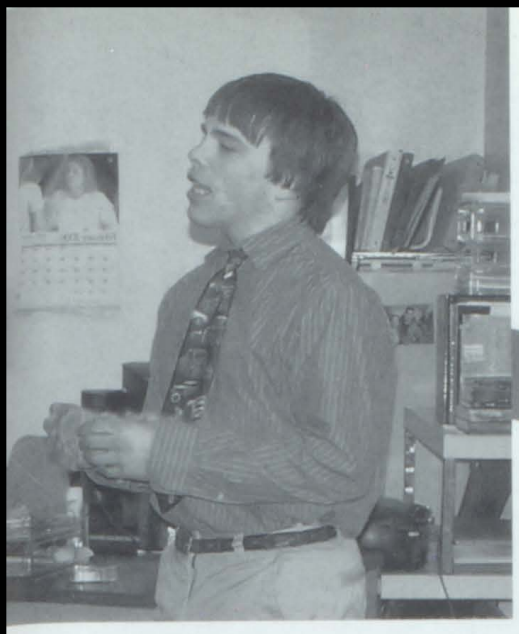
- Cheri Garwood

*Above- **Tim Coleman** performs the part of Satan in the seniors' skit about our constant spiritual battle. Bill Griepenstroh played Jesus who ultimately crushed Satan underneath his feet.*
*Above right- After listening to a talk on modesty during Spiritual Emphasis Day, **Mrs. Verna Zaruba** and **Ashley Miller** join together in prayer.*
*Right- Perched atop a ladder, **Riley Garwood** holds a spotlight while observing a senior-led chapel.*

*Below- With voices in unison, **Becca Brill** and **Annie Nickel** sing "Breath of Heaven." Since Becca's original partner backed out at the last minute, Nickel graciously volunteered to fill in.*

*Above- Worshiping the Lord, **Cheri Garwood**, **Stephanie Ritta**, and **Jessica Bailey** joyfully sing along in chapel.*
Right- Early in the year, Pastor Zeke Pipher from the Evangelical Free Church in Central City shared a message on Paul's faith. Amy Thiessen said, "His message was my favorite one of the year."





*Left- **Bill Griepenstroh** presents his entertainment speech on ADD. After several rewrites, the speech finally ended up winning 3rd place at districts.*
*Below- Who is on first base, anyway? **Josh Bailey** tries to explain just that to **Matt Ryan** in their state-qualifying duet.*
*Right- **Brice Necker** gives a believable performance as an insane man pretending to be sane.*

Developing Boldness Through Speech

While it was difficult at times, especially for first-year participants, to stand in front of a group of people and speak, it proved to develop perseverance and boldness in the participants' lives. Some joined speech to share their faith while others joined to hang out with their friends and have fun.

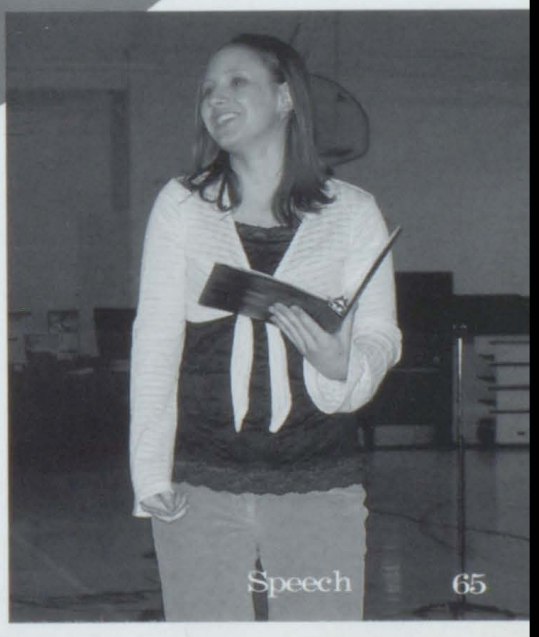
Many participants used speech as an opportunity to be a witness for Christ and to reflect Him. Becca Brill went one step further with her speech that listed reasons supporting the accuracy of the Bible. Regarding her speech, Brill said, "I liked doing a speech that mattered, not one that was stupid and that had no point."

Standing in front of a judge and an audience in order to give a speech caused some to feel a bit queasy, but others thrived on the chance to show off their skills, no matter what those skills were. According to Sam Krug, his favorite part of his speech was, "When I got to act like an idiot and when I got to act like I was riding a horse."

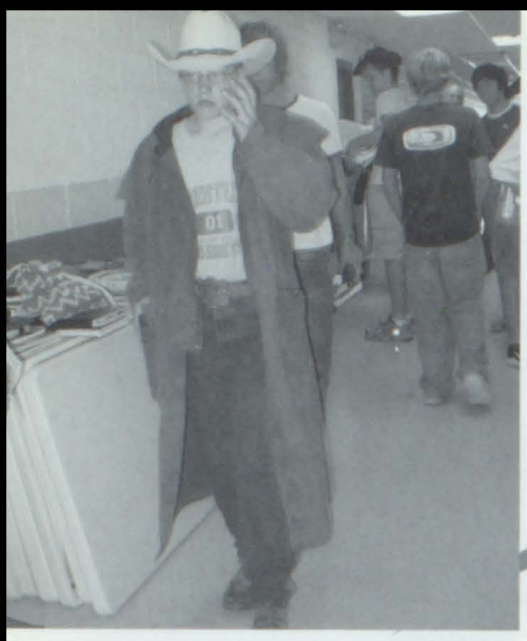
Whether their speeches were designed to entertain through humor or to provoke serious thought, members of the speech team desired to honor Christ through their presentations. -Stephanie Ritta and Cheri Garwood

*Above- **Phillip Cunningham** performs on speech night. He was very successful with his entertainment speech, "The Scent of a Man."*
*Above left- As a patient pretending to be a doctor, **Audra Faeh** is quite convincing.*
*Left- Performing her poetry piece, **Lisa Osler** brings many in the crowd to tears as she talks about death. Osler took her persuasive speech entitled "Hate Speech" to the state tournament and won 5th place.*

*Below- Crashing a play practice, **Danica Woods** is a perky, friendly character in the OID "Play a Little Play" by Sara Koch.*



Above- left to right, front to back; Row 1: Lisa Osler, Kristen Mott, Amanda Liegl, Erica Freeman, Brittany Epp, Annie Nickel Row 2: Audra Faeh, Kelsie Selden, Rebecca Woods, Stephanie Ritta, Laura Reimer, Danica Woods, Becca Brill Row 3: Matt Ryan, Drew Hanke, Brice Necker, Phillip Cunningham, Bill Griepenstroh, Assistant Coach Ruth Ferris Row 4: Sam Krug, Luke Faeh, Josh Bailey (not pictured: Head Coach Becky Ritta and Heather Smith)



*Left- In his cowboy attire on Cowboy Day, **Ray Johnson** prepares to go to chapel. Students attended chapel once a week.*
*Below- **Lindsay Swanson** paints "NC" on **Charice Schweitzer's** face to show off her school spirit on Blue and White Day.*

Dressed Up or Down- Students Love Spirit Week

In what week would people see someone walking around campus with all the blankets from their bed? Or dressed like they had just stepped out of an old western? Or looking like Superman? Or covered from head to toe in blue and white? There is only one place and one week of the year that people would see all of these interesting sights-the Nebraska Christian campus during Homecoming Spirit Week!

The week began on Tuesday with the students' favorite dress-down day, Pajama Day, where a student can basically get out of bed and come to school. On Wednesday, students recreated an old western movie on Cowboy Day. Superhero Day brought unusual characters such as the Three Amigos and the Power Puff Girls. The week ended with the annual Blue and White Day. A close win of 36-35 against the Shelby Huskies brought Homecoming week to an exciting close. Following the game, the annual crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen took place on the football field.

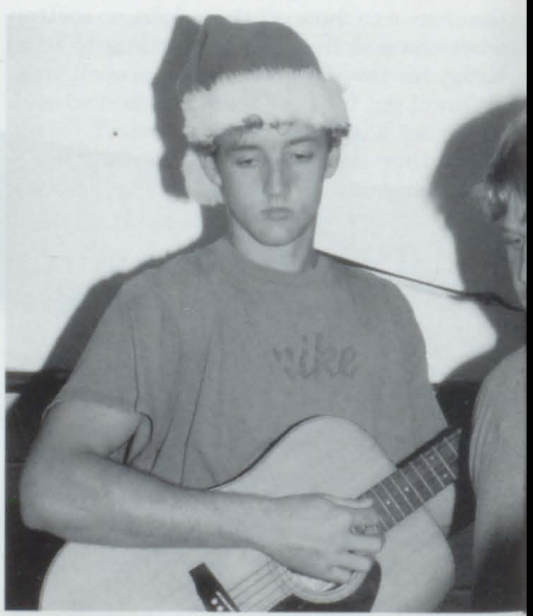
The night ended with a bonfire, food, and hayrack rides sponsored by the high school Parent-Teacher Fellowship. Another fun-filled Spirit Week ended, with great anticipation for the next year. -Heather Smith

*Above- As a member of the Student Council, **Drew Hanke** helps decorate the float for the coronation. Every year the Student Council is in charge of decorating the float.*
Above right- The international students sell balloons for relief for the hurricane victims of New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina, a catagory 5, hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005, flooding most of the city.
*Right- **Caleb Coleman's** choice for Superhero Day was the Grim Reaper.*

*Below- Homecoming Queen **Holly Murphy** and King **Sam Krug** pose for photos. Other candidates were: Carmen Dockweiler, Kelli Garwood, Laura Reimer, Riley Garwood, Jordan Ward, and Ryan Weedin.*

Photo by Tim Nicholas

*Above- **Sydney Zaruba** shows her love for braids and shades during Blue and White Day. These crazy glasses were purchased at Wal-Mart.*
*Right- Dressed as Santa Claus for Superhero Day, **Luke Faeh** practices for chapel. Students led chapel music each week using a variety of instruments.*



*Left- **Amanda Liegl** and **Kristen Mott** furiously eat the banana split at the ice cream social.*
*Below- **Braden Swanson** and **Jerry Lobeda** hang out with the Student Council members as they fill encouragement balloons.*
*Right- **Riley Garwood** sets out the pizza for lunch to help out on the day of the Harvest Festival.*

Bringing Students Together

Each year the Student Council takes on the task of planning different events to unite the student body. One event they planned was the annual ice cream social. This was by far the student body's favorite event. Kristen Mott said, "The social was the best!" Her comment was followed by one from Ho Wai Ng, "The slip-n-slide was the best 'cause it's fun to play in the water."

The Student Council also helped the cooks out by planning pizza days so that the cooks could concentrate on making food for the Harvest Festival and Advance Dinner.

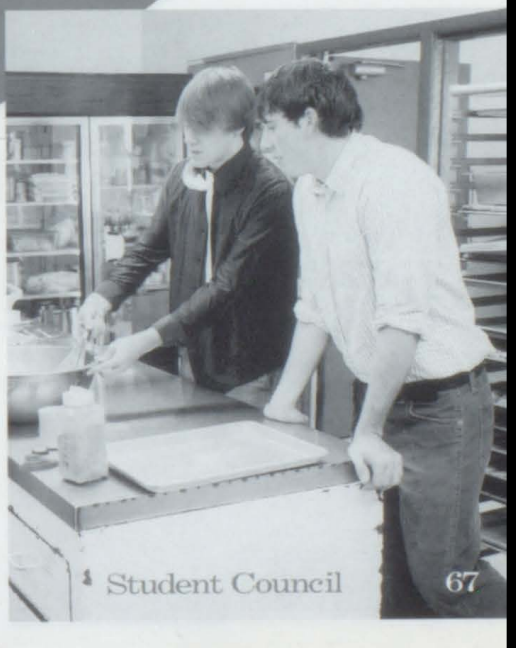
The students were brought together for one last gathering before they left for Christmas break. "The Christmas Banquet was a lot of fun, because of the food and just being with friends." said Stacey Krieger.

An egg hunt was the final event of the year. Lesley Ribbens said, "I loved the egg hunt, but I wish they would give us more candy." Everyone enjoyed each one of these events because of the time they got to spend with the whole student body. -Heather Smith

Above- Officers: Phillip Cunningham, treasurer; Riley Garwood, vice president; Sam Krug, president; Bill Griepenstroh, secretary
Above left- The slip and slide is always a big hit at the social. Phillip Cunningham said, "The soap we use is Joy, and that's what we bring to the students."
*Left- **Alysia Brethouwer**, **Stacey Krieger**, and **Brittany Epp** look through each others' pictures at the Christmas Brunch.*

*Below- Helping in the kitchen, **Riley Garwood** and **Jake Tonniges** mix the batter for the french toast. The Christmas Brunch consisted of french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, and fruit cups.*

*Above- After completing a makeover on **Mr. Mike Brill**, **Jordan Ward** and **Levi Dixon** laugh as three other members of the teaching staff are given a new look as well. During a pep rally, all of the football players were allowed to "fix up" one of their teachers for the homecoming pep rally.*



*Left- **Amy Thiessen** celebrates her victory in a heated game of foosball in the camp recreation center. She and her partner **Ashley Miller** boldly took on Mr. G and Riley Garwood.*
*Below- After another large and delicious meal at the camp, **Annie Nickel** and **Holly Murphy** stretch out and relax.*

Seniors Enjoy One Last Adventure

Being a senior was a beautiful thing. The fear of "upperclassmen" was nonexistent because seniors were the upperclassmen. Senioritis was a real disease. Though not deadly, it hit some as early as October, others as late as April, and others not at all. However, one of the most memorable things about the senior year was the senior trip. It was the last time the class got to be together as a whole–other than the 36 days of school after they returned.

At Nebraska Christian, the traditional senior trip is skiing. The class took off on February 27 at 8:00 a.m. for a very long drive to Camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je. After two days of skiing and/or shopping and an interesting meal at Casa Bonita in Denver, the class returned home on March 2, 2006.

Senior retreat gave each student a chance to spend time with one another and enjoy activities together for one last time. The trip gave seniors a chance to interact and to grow spiritually. The newly-hired pastor at the Evangelical Free Church in Central City, Zeke Pipher, challenged each senior to consider his or her spiritual future.

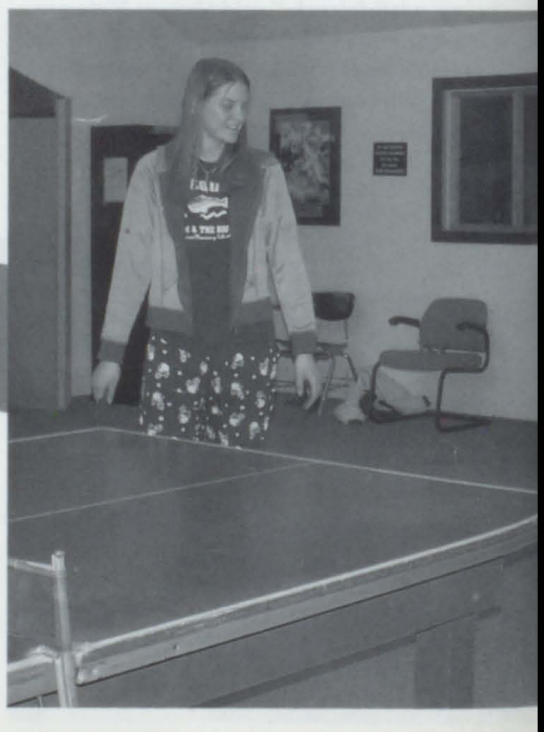
Fun activities and spiritual enlightening made the 2006 senior trip a great experience. Heather Smith said, "Not having to worry about school and being with friends made the senior trip quite enjoyable." When the seniors returned, they looked forward to the most beautiful thing about being a senior–GRADUATION!

-Bill Griepenstroh

*Above- **Kaity Flynn** snowplows to a stop. She spent most of the day on the bunny hill along with many others.*
*Above right- Struggling to stay awake, **John Wong** contemplates his life and asks himself why he has been sitting on a bus for five hours.*
*Right- First time snowboarders **Ryan Weedin** and **Lindsay Swanson**, along with **Fei Cheng** relax before trying to get up after a minor collision.*

*Below- **Phillip Cunningham** and **Lindsay Swanson** enjoy beverages as they take part in a stimulating conversation with several other classmates seated around a table in the camp dining hall.*

*Above- **Jeremy Lutes** passes some time on the bus by listening to some tunes. Lutes enjoyed the trip, but was unable to ski due to a knee injury he received during football season.*
*Right- **Laura Reimer** learns some new Ping-Pong tricks from the very skilled **Ashley Stone**. Ping-Pong was a very popular activity while at Id-Ra-Ha-Je.*



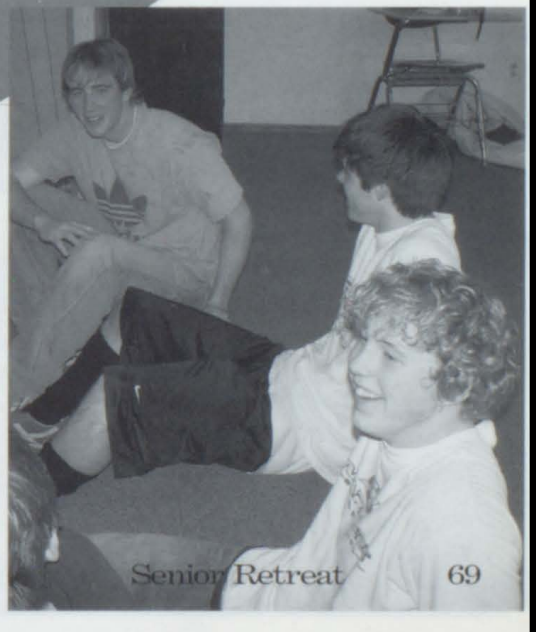
Right- **Jake Tonniges** attempts to stay on his snowboard after **Ryan Weedin** crashes. This picture could have been taken anytime during the day, as Weedin found himself in that very position more often than not.

Below- Skiing down the bunny slope, **Carmen Dockweiler** gracefully uses her ski poles to guide her way down the mountain. Many seniors spent the first day on the beginners' slopes.
Right- After finishing a very filling meal, the senior class stands in front of Casa Bonita in Denver for a picture.

Above- Cousins **Sarah** and **Kelli Garwood** get their gear ready for a day of recreation out on the mountain.
Above left- Seniors enjoy a game of floor hockey. **Bill Griepenstroh** explains to **Becca Brill** where she should go in their team's defensive strategy.
Left- **Joseph Lee** interacts with Zeke and Jamie Pipher's baby, Claire. Claire made the trip much more enjoyable for baby lovers.

Below- Laughing as they watch the floor hockey game, **Riley Garwood**, **Jordan Ward**, and **Tyson Ratliff** debate about whether or not they should join in the chaos. Nights in the recreation room provided a chance to hang out and bond with classmates.

Above- **Kelli Garwood** bravely tries to slow down as she descends to the bottom of the bunny slopes. After a few runs, she decided to brave the higher ski runs.



Left- Listening to her music, ***Michelle Clement*** *stares dolefully out the window as she waits for the bus to arrive at its destination. Clement looked forward to the trip with enthusiasm. Below-* ***Levi Dixon*** *reads about the Gettysburg Address at the Gettysburg National Park. He learned education could be interesting.*

D.C. Trip Enlightens Students

The city of Washington D.C. is full of history; the sophomore and freshmen classes learned much about what happened through the course of United States history on their trip. The classes visited many monuments and historical sites. Among the places they visited were the following: Gettysburg, the White House, the Capitol Building, the Old Post Office, Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, Mount Vernon, and the Holocaust Museum. At the historic sites, they all got to hang out and talk about what they liked and didn't like about that particular monument. The classes were amazed at what they learned and, all in all, had a memorable trip.

After a long day of exploring the sites, the two classes got a chance to bond back at the hotel, where they played card games and went out to eat at the fast food restaurants nearby. Also at the hotel, there were opportunities to work out or just sit and talk in the halls. The students enjoyed sharing a room with their friends because they got to get to know them better, even if they got a little loud in the middle of the night.

Bonding with friends and classmates was one of the many joys they experienced on the trip, but by the end of the week the students were tired and some were ready to go home. The trip was a good learning experience, and they were all glad that they were able to go. -Liz Smith and Beth Ignowski

Above- After washing her hair in the sink, ***Sarah Perez*** *dries it under one of the hand dryers in the bathroom. Above right- Hiding behind a pillar,* ***Rebecca Woods*** *laughs at her companions. The Jefferson Memorial provided a great spot to get out of the sun. Right- Homeschoolers Abby Johnson, Tammy Lockling, and freshman* ***Eric Patten*** *stare out at the WWII memorial. They were patiently waiting to take a group photo.*

Below- ***Fred Lee*** *examines some of the bling at one of the street vender's little carts. Lee wore lots of bling which posed a problem when he had to go through the security in all the sites he visited.*

Above- Looking out across the harbor, ***Danielle Richards, Elizabeth Griess,*** *and* ***Karrah Miller*** *watch the ships coming and going.*
Right- The students line up in order to board the charter bus that will take them to D.C.

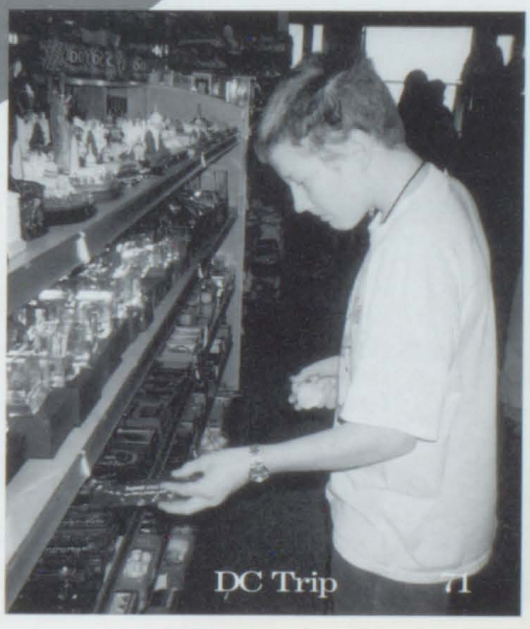
Below- Trying to scare **Mrs. Kim Woods, Mr. Dan Woods** jumps out at her after they ate at a local McDonalds. The students weren't the only ones that had fun; the sponsors also enjoyed teasing each other.
Right- **Brittney Shepherd** sleeps the long hours away while waiting for the rest of the group to come out of the Museum of American History. Although she was able to get some much-needed sleep, Shepherd woke up sunburned.

Right- After eating at the Hard Rock Café, **Beth Ignowski** and **Liz Smith** try to decide what clothes to buy for souvenirs. They went shopping at one of the many stores that lined the streets by the café.

Above- **Rebecca Woods, Cheri Garwood, Kelsie Selden,** and **Karrah Miller** had the opportunity to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.
Above left- **Jessica Bailey** intently reads about the Gettysburg Address. Bailey returned from the trip with additonal knowledge about U.S. history.
Left- **Kelsie Selden** sleeps the bus ride away. The bus' cramped quarters made it difficult to wake up feeling rested.

Above- **Mike Swanson, Caden Huenefeld, Andrew McHargue,** sponsor Judi McHargue, and **Cody Lobeda** read another monument on their educational tour of our nation's capital.

Below- Looking at some jewelry, **Ray Johnson** tries to decide what to buy for his family members. After eating dinner the students were given some shopping time.



Left- To give the gym a forest-like feeling, ***Trevor Nunnenkamp*** *and* ***Micah Unruh*** *set a tree in a bucket of gravel. The gym was filled with trees which were cut down at Luke Faeh's house. Below-* ***Kaity Flynn*** *and* ***Tim Coleman*** *enjoy their delicious Italian sodas. The sodas came in many flavors to please everyone's unique taste.*

Spending A Magical Night in Narnia

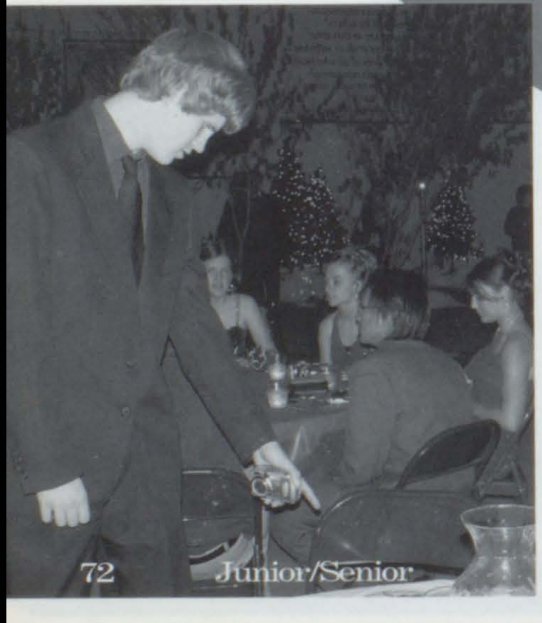
After many hours of hard work over the last months, the junior class brought the magic of C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* to life for the senior class. No one would have guessed that they were really standing in the gym at Nebraska Christian. With trees scattered around the floor, it was like being transported into a forest during the winter.

The night began with pictures, pictures, and more pictures! Photos were everyone's favorite way to make the night last forever in their memories. Waiting for dinner to be served, the classes mingled, socialized, and enjoyed Italian sodas. The night began with a delicious strawberry-pretzel salad. The main course consisted of green beans, cheesy potatoes, and steak. Finally, it was finished off with a delectable chocolate peanut butter delight.

The speaker was Josh Merchant. He spoke on the threats of walking away from God and being rebellious going into the freshman year of college. He did not make it all doom and gloom, but encouraged the group about still being able to come back and God will forgive. A lot of times God will put a hard time in our way in order to bring us back. After the speaker, the classes split off into groups to do their own things. -Heather Smith

Above- ***Alli Griess*** *measures out the amount of plastic needed to cover backdrops and put snow around trees. Above right- After taking a picture with the guys without his coat,* ***Matt Ryan*** *strains to put it back on before finding his date and his seat. Right-* ***Micah Unruh*** *gives* ***Bill Griepenstroh*** *a friendly hug following the meal. Unruh and Griepenstroh have been like brothers for several years, hanging out together whenever possible.*

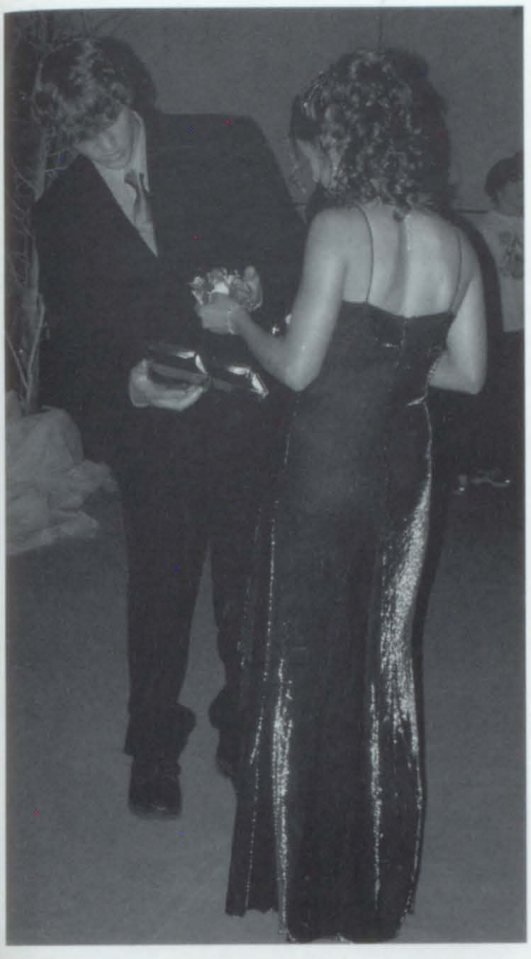
Below- Trying to find a seat in the array of people, ***Brice Necker*** *points to a possible spot for himself. He ended up sitting with friends from the senior class.*



Above- ***Alli Griess*** *stares with a horrified expression at the Italian soda that she just spilled on herself as* ***Jordan Ward*** *looks on laughing. Griess did this more than once, each time looking down and spilling more soda.*

Right- **Alysia Brethouwer** and **Ali Galloway** discuss their agenda for the night. Many students went to various parties being held in the area after the banquet.

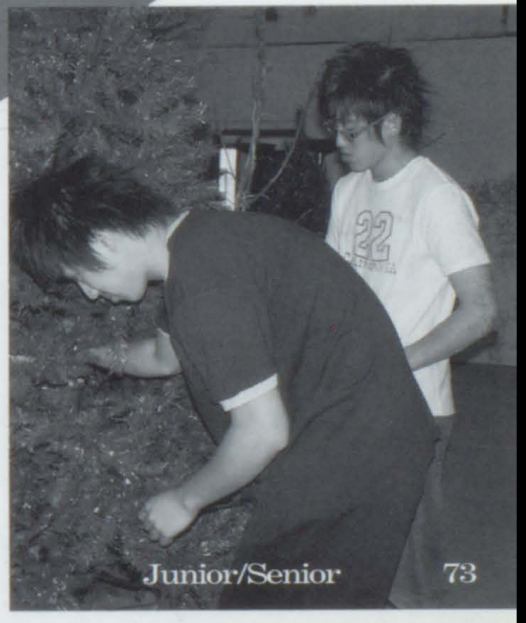
Below- Meeting at the gym, **Drew Hanke** helps his date Ashley Miller take the corsage out of the box and put it on.
Right- Abby Perez, Celeste Hattan, Holly Murphy, and Becca Brill pose for a group picture. The four have been good friends for many years growing up going to church together in Aurora.

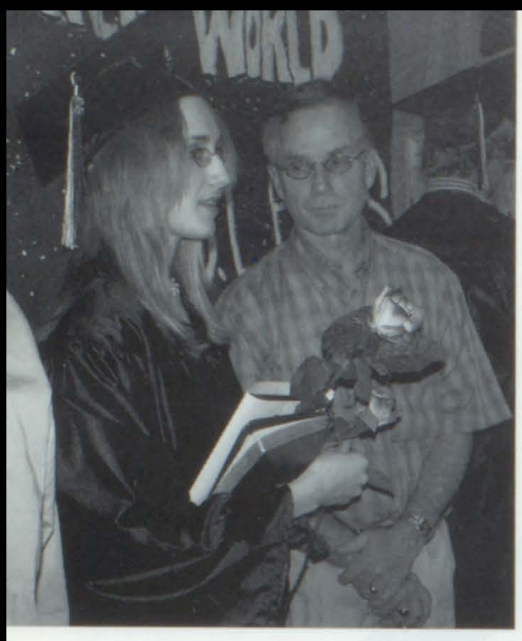


Above- **Amy Thiessen** discusses the transformation of the gym into the land of Narnia with **Kelli Garwood** while she awaits the arrival of her date, Micah Unruh.
Above left- **Jake Tonniges** waits in line for an Italian soda, looking very stylish. He was the only one wearing a hat.
Left- While waiting for their picture to be taken, **Fei Cheng** and Shan Yu observe the terrific decorations.

Below- **Ho Wai Ng** and **Wai Wong** help Mrs. Trudy Hanke set up the trees surrounding the room.

Above- **Riley Garwood** entertains his table with a story while they wait for the meal to be served.
Left- The students listen intently as Josh Merchant gives his presentation. He spoke on the probability of walking away from the faith and then gave the solution for coming back into the Lord's favor.





Left- After receiving her diploma, ***Celeste Hattan*** *enjoys a moment with her father, Rick. Below- Members of the ensemble,* ***Lisa Osler, Annie Nickel,*** *and* ***Laura Reimer*** *sing for everyone at graduation. A large majority of the ensemble were seniors.*

School at NC Ends and Real Life Begins

Oh the joys of graduation! Though it's significance could not be felt immediately, shortly thereafter every student who graduated realized that graduation was more than a ceremony. Rather, it was one of the largest steps that life, so far, had to offer.

They did the time. They sat through the classes. The senior class of 2006 finally graduated on May 12, 2006. To some the ceremony seemed hot and tedious, and to others it seemed short and sweet. But regardless of how the ceremony felt, when each senior received his or her diploma, a feeling of gratitude and peace came over them.

However, the significance of graduation was not in the ceremony itself. What was most important was what happened after the diplomas were signed. The Christ-centered education and the spiritual growth that was offered at NC was unlike that which was available at any other school. In the future, whether or not each senior chooses to follow Christ and what he or she learned at NC is up to them.

As the seniors embarked upon their biggest adventure– real life– the education they received at Nebraska Christian prepared them to face the world head on.

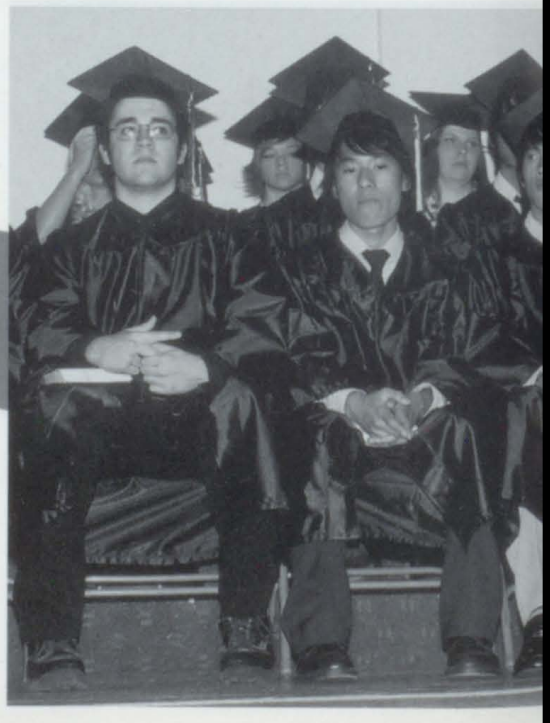
-Bill Griepenstroh

Above- Graduation speaker Flip Benham speaks to the seniors about standing against Satan. Above right- ***Becca Brill*** *addresses her classmates and the audience about the importance of a personal relationship with Christ. Right- Getting comfortable,* ***Tyson Ratliff*** *sits down as his name is read during the class history at Senior Time. Ratliff had to come in and go out twice as he started at NC, left to home school, and then returned to NC.*

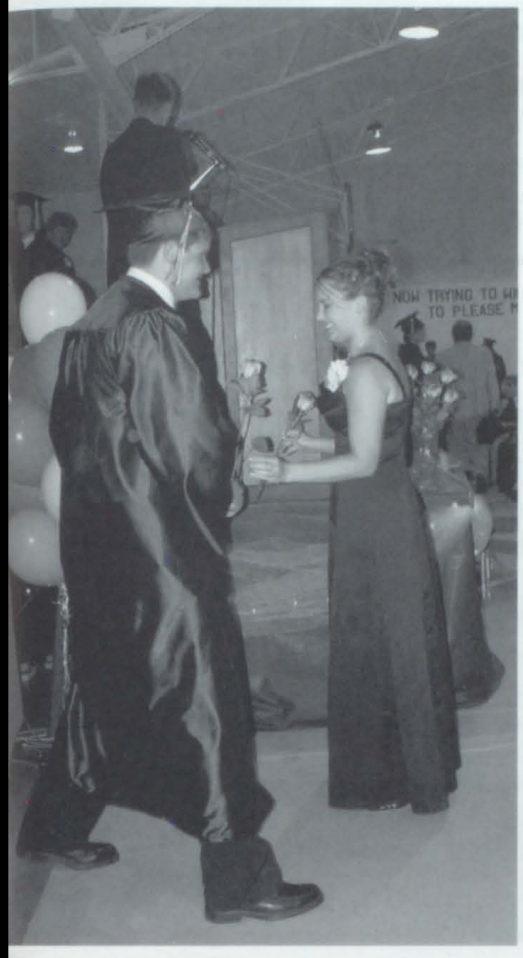
Below- Choir members ***Lindsay Swanson, Phillip Cunningham,*** *and* ***Bruce Chen*** *sing at graduation. The entire choir was required to attend and gave a stellar performance.*

Above- Board chairman Norm Krug presents her ***Ayami Fukushi*** *her diploma, and she poses for a picture.*

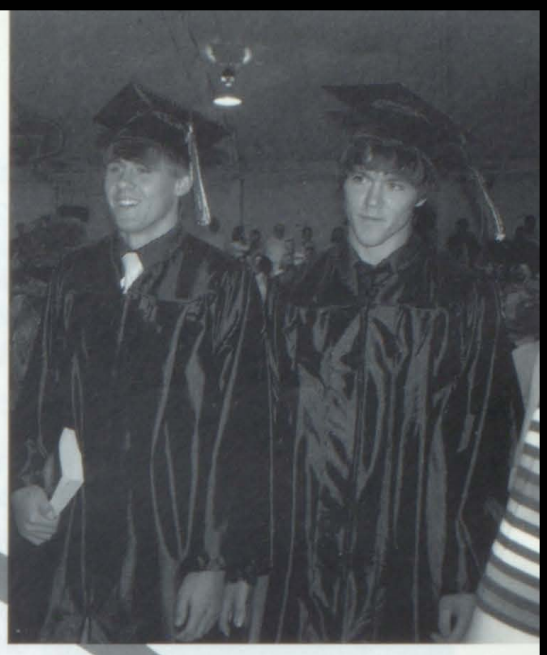
Right- The class of 2006 looks pensive as they wait patiently for the ceremony to begin. Songs, speakers, and prayers later, they received their diplomas.



Below- After receiving his diploma, **Ryan Weedin** *grabs a blue-tipped white rose from escort* **Stacey Krieger** *to give to his mom as he is united with his parents. Graduates joined their parents and lined up around the edges of the gym for a closing prayer by board chairman Norm Krug before making their way to a receiving line outside.*
Right- Seniors were brought out one grade at a time as the class history announces when they joined the NC family. Some students came in, went back out, and came back in again because they left NC at some point and then returned to join their classmates for the remainder of high school.



Right- Trying to synchronize their steps, **Jordan Ward** *and* **Jake Tonniges** *walk down the isle on the way to the graduation stage. The graduates were lined up alphabetically in order to make their seating on the stage easier because 39 graduates were crowded together in a small area.*



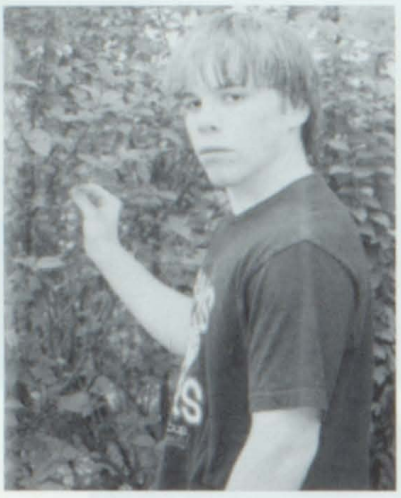
Above- **Sam Krug**, *class speaker, talks about what the class has accomplished and encourages them to go forth with Christ to accomplish much in their future.*
Above left- One of the many graduates, **Jeremy Lutes** *concentrates on the future ahead of him. His six years at the school prepared him to face the world outside of Nebraska Christian.*
Left- **Sydney Zaruba** *smiles from ear to ear as she receives her diploma from the chairman of the school board Norm Krug.*

Below- Accompanist **Kelli Garwood**, *along with her page turner* **Kaity Flynn**, *plays music for the choir one last time before she graduates.*

Above- Waiting for the signal to march, **Ashley Stone**, **Heather Smith**, *and* **Ashley Miller** *prepare themselves for the pinnacle of their high school careers– graduation! Although they waited for thirteen years to reach this milestone, many expressed regret that their high school days had come to an end.*

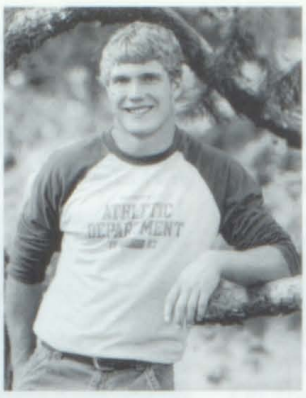
Bill,

We give God the glory and the credit for the man you've become. He has done a great work in you– may He continue that work as you walk with Him into your adult life.



Love always,
Mom & Dad

Philippians 1:6
"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Congratulations Sam on this special milestone in your life!

We are so thankful and humbled that the Lord would choose to bless our family with a son like you. You have given us great joy and pride in watching you grow into the fine young man that you have become. Your love for the Lord and faithfulness in serving Him is a testimony to us all. May you continue to walk in His ways and allow Him to direct your paths.

With much love,
Dad, Mom, and Abbie,
Andrea and Cober, Nate and Christi

Annie B,

We'd love to have just a few of these days back again. But we know that you're ready to roll...a little farther than around the block. God has blessed you so abundantly. We are very proud of you. He will support and strengthen you as you go about the work of His kingdom.

**We Love You,
Mom & Dad, Jill,
Erin & Ross
Matthew 28:18-20**

Dearest Lisa,

Your father and I are pleased with the woman our little girl has grown into, and Your Heavenly Father will always be there to parent you.

Isaiah 41:10

Reese J,

We love you and are so proud of you!

It has been a joy to watch as you have grown from a sweet little girl into a beautiful young woman whose desire is to love and serve her Savior.

We will continue to pray for you as you seek His will and continue on this wonderful adventure called life that He has planned for you.

Love, Mom & Dad

Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Little Barista,

From the minute you were born, you were like a fresh-brewed cup of coffee. That fresh-brewing came with one guarantee: life with you would not be stale. Everyday, as your cup overflows, you fill our home and lives with a pleasing, fragrant aroma and rich, full flavor. What a joy you are! As you graduate from high school, let God continue to work in your life, turning you into a fine-grind speciality coffee. He has the filter and the recipe to fresh-brew your life each day. God has a guarantee: with Him your life will not go stale. Greet Him each day like you would a fresh-brewed cup of coffee: hold Him, sit with Him, and savor Him. He's good to the last drop.

As Dad and I pour ourselves another cup of coffee and watch the steam dance in the air, we dream about where you'll be tomorrow and watch as God guides you there.

Love Always,
Dad and Mom

Lindsay, we are so proud of you and the godly young woman you have become. Keep listening to the Lord's leading in your life and trust Him as you venture out from Nebraska Christian.

Much Love,
Mom & Dad

Nehemiah 8:10b "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Amy,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."
Proverbs 3:5-6

Love,
Mom and Dad

NC welcomed new students:

Arisa Chon
Category 15

Minh Dinh
Category 15

Hailey Kim
Category 15

Ram Lee
Junior

Eric Patten
Freshman

Casey Rose
Freshman

Derek Rose
5th Grade

Dillon Rose
2nd Grade

Kirk Rose
Junior

Tina Yang
Category 15

Reflector
Volume 47

Shifting Gears

Nebraska Christian Schools
1847 Inskip Avenue
Central City, NE 68826

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Platinum $100+

Central Bank
Covenant Door & Millwork

Gold $75-$99

Central City Mall
Central City Vet Clinic
Central True Value
Cornerstone Bank
Pinnacle Bank

Silver $50-$74

Agriplex Real Estate & Appraisal Inc.
Central City Family Dental Care
Preferred Popcorn
T.O. Haas Tires
Vollers Chiropractic
Wagner Funeral Home
Lone Tree Deli

LaFayette Beauty & Tanning Salon
Litzenberg Hospital
Lone Tree Medical Assoc., PC
McIlnay & Co.
Merrick Foundation
Norm's USave Pharmacy
Palser Service
Pizza Hut
Ross Realty
Sack Lumber Co.
Solt Funeral Home
Subway
Triangle Insurance
Watkins Products
Wegner Monument

Bronze $35-$49

Bill's Volume Sales
Bomgaars
Brenda's Floral
Central City Scale
Central Realty
Countryside Flowers
Dairy Queen
D & D Building Supply
EyeCare Associates
Fitness Center
Flatland Realty
Greenline Equipment
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Hilder Implement
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Zaruba, Sydney 6, 13, 29, 33, 46, 47, 49, 52, 60, 66, 75
Zaruba, Verna 23, 27, 64
Zimmer, Savannah 23

Driving into the Future

"Drinking coffee with the seniors at the farewell breakfast was a lot of fun."
-Ali Galloway

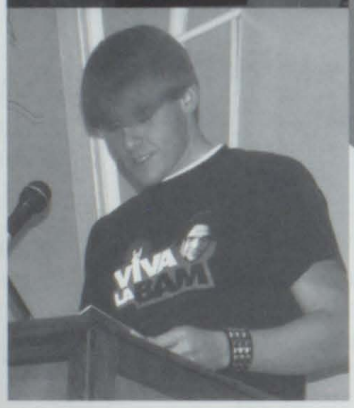
Right- During the last week of school, students walk to their classes with the new building in the background. The estimated date of completion made the building a probable location for the '06-'07 school year.

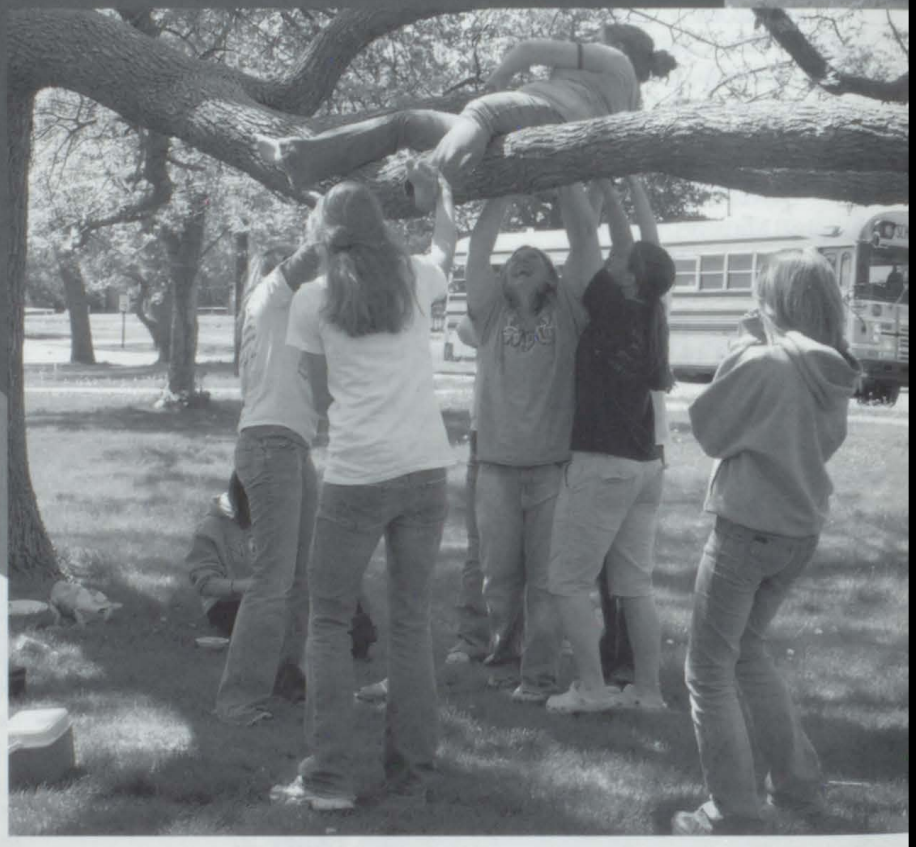
*Below- **Kendra Griepenstroh, Amber Rainbolt, Abbie Krug, Sable Homolka,** and **Kala Walgren** lead worship time during the final chapel of the year.*

*Right- Finishing her last meal in the cafeteria, **Kaity Flynn** rubs her head and expresses her appreciation for Mrs. Annette Ward's wiener wraps.*

*Right- **Micah Unruh** proudly receives his perfect attendence award from **Mr. Larry Schreiber** during the Awards Time on May 10. Unruh and his sister Alycea Unruh were two of only four students to be honored with the perfect attendence award.*

*Right- At Senior Time, **Jake Tonniges** announces his will to Alli Griess, a T.V. Guide. Tonniges also returned several passes from the year before that Tyson Ratliff had accumulated at home and wanted to give back to the teachers.*





*Above- Senior girls desperately try to push their classmate **Lisa Osler** up into the tree just outside of the gym building. As the school year wound down, some of the standard rules for lunch-time were loosened up a bit. The senior girls got permission to eat outside, picnic-style, for one of their last school lunch periods.*

As this article falls upon the eyes of the reader, the 2005-2006 school is a thing of the past. There are no more crisp fall football games, early morning math classes, or late-night study sessions. Alas, the seniors have graduated and yet another group of upperclassmen have taken upon themselves the role of leadership. By and large, each year repeats itself, and all that is left from the previous year are memories– and the yearbook.

The theme of this book was "Shifting Gears." Not only did the theme apply to the school year, but also the well-picked theme applied to life. Life could easily be compared to a gearbox with constant changes and shifts in direction. The key to this gearbox is the clutch. Without the clutch, it is impossible to drive anywhere. Shifting gears is impossible. The clutch, for believers, is God and faith in His son Jesus Christ. Without this basic component, life stays in neutral, idling uselessly. It is impossible to have direction and to be in motion without true and genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

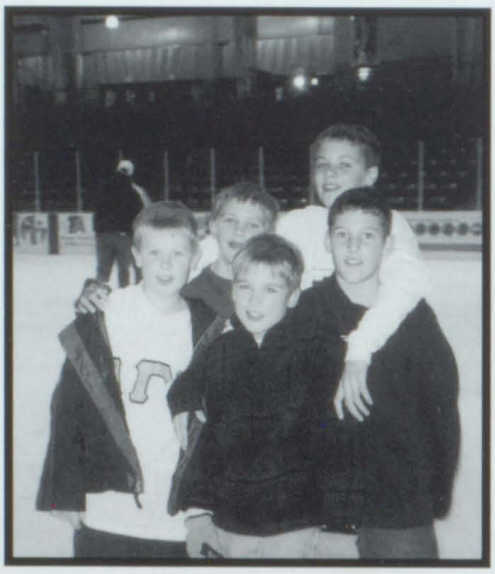
With staff changes, the building project, and four-day weeks, any average Joe could see how Nebraska Christian shifted gears, driving into a bigger and brighter beyond during '05-'06. But the question is, are we ready? Only when we allow God to be the clutch in our lives can we truly adapt to the changes that life constantly throws in our direction and be flexible enough to trust God's plan for us in order to shift gears at a moment's notice.

-Bill Griepenstroh, Editor

Christopher Toukan- We Will Miss You Until We Meet Again!

To my kindergarten buddy Chris,
There are countless things that, even though you physically are gone, you've left behind. You were obviously a Christian, and even those who didn't know you well could clearly see that Christ was a huge part of your life. I respect you so much. Your time on earth was brief, but the impact you made on so many people will be carried on for generations. I can't wait to see you again.
-Abbie Krug

Hey Chris,
You were an amazing boy! I'm sorry life on earth was short for you, but think– the longer you get to be in Heaven! Do you remember the time Michelle, you, and me put on dresses and went and jumped on your trampoline? Ha Ha! Chris, I'll never forget you! You're like my brother! I love you, Christopher Marie Toukan!!!
-Kala Walgren



What I miss most about Chris is that he always made me laugh. He was always so nice to everyone. We will always have good memories of him, but knowing that he is gone for just a short time makes the wait worth it, 'cuz I know I'll see him again. I love him and miss him very much.
-Kelsey Shepherd

Chris made coming to school for the first time ever for me a lot of fun. He always looked on the bright side and was awesome to hang out with and to talk to. He is one of the coolest kids ever.
-Elliot Murphy

You could tell Chris had a big heart for the Lord.
-Alycea Unruh

The most smiling boy in school now is smiling with Jesus.
-Sarah Armatys

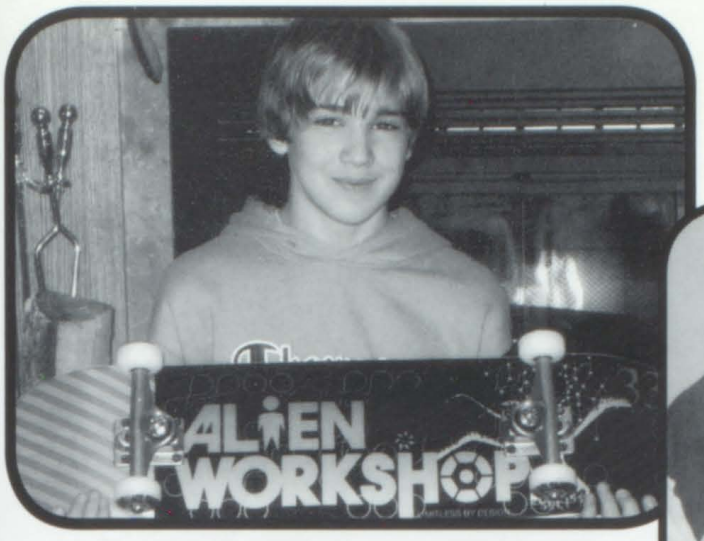
I want you here to make me laugh until I cry. You would always do that to me.
-Lyndsi Kembel

You were and are the funniest person I've ever met! There's nothing I could've changed about you. I'll always miss you.
-Amber Rainbolt

The tears are streaming down
Now that you're not around
But by the grace of God,
Everything will be good.
-Lyndsi Kembel

I'll never forget your Nintendo beanies, how you wrote with your left hand, your chunky DC shoes, your old bendy glasses, and your goofy grin that could brighten the darkest of days. Chris T. spells Christ and that's exactly who you went to live with for eternity on the bittersweet day. Through the tears, I find myself trying to peek into the mind of God to see why He took you. Then I remember your own words and realize it was simply because– "Jesus wanted it that way."
Love, Janelle Bailey
Hosea 6:1

I miss that sudden glow and laughter that you brought to the room.
-Becky Poeffel



In Memory of Christopher Toukan

"When they placed you in our arms, you slipped into our hearts."

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

I Corinthians 13:12

Chris,

I miss your hugs, and I miss your outrageous sense of humor. (You always got what other people missed!) I miss finding rubber bands all over the house, and I miss you bouncing around the house after school because you'd had to "contain yourself" all day. I miss you being at the kitchen table before school when Michelle and I pray without you. I'll miss seeing you grow into the man of God I know you wanted to be. Most of all, I'll miss your smile which lit up a room.

I love you!
Mom

One of my lifelong desires was to be a father. Christopher's life was such a gift to me. I am so thankful to have had my heart touched by him. God gave us the desires of our hearts when Christopher and Michelle became part of our lives. Considering what we who are left behind are faced with, some may ask the question: Is the pain of loving and then losing Christopher worth it? Absolutely, because he is alive, and I will see him again. I miss your face and your beautiful eyes, sweetheart. I love you, Dad

Chris,

You were always there for me when I needed you. You taught me how to skateboard, and you tipped me on snowboarding and motocross, but you taught me how to live for Christ. I hope you will be proud of who I am. I love and miss you so much. See you soon. Love, Michelle

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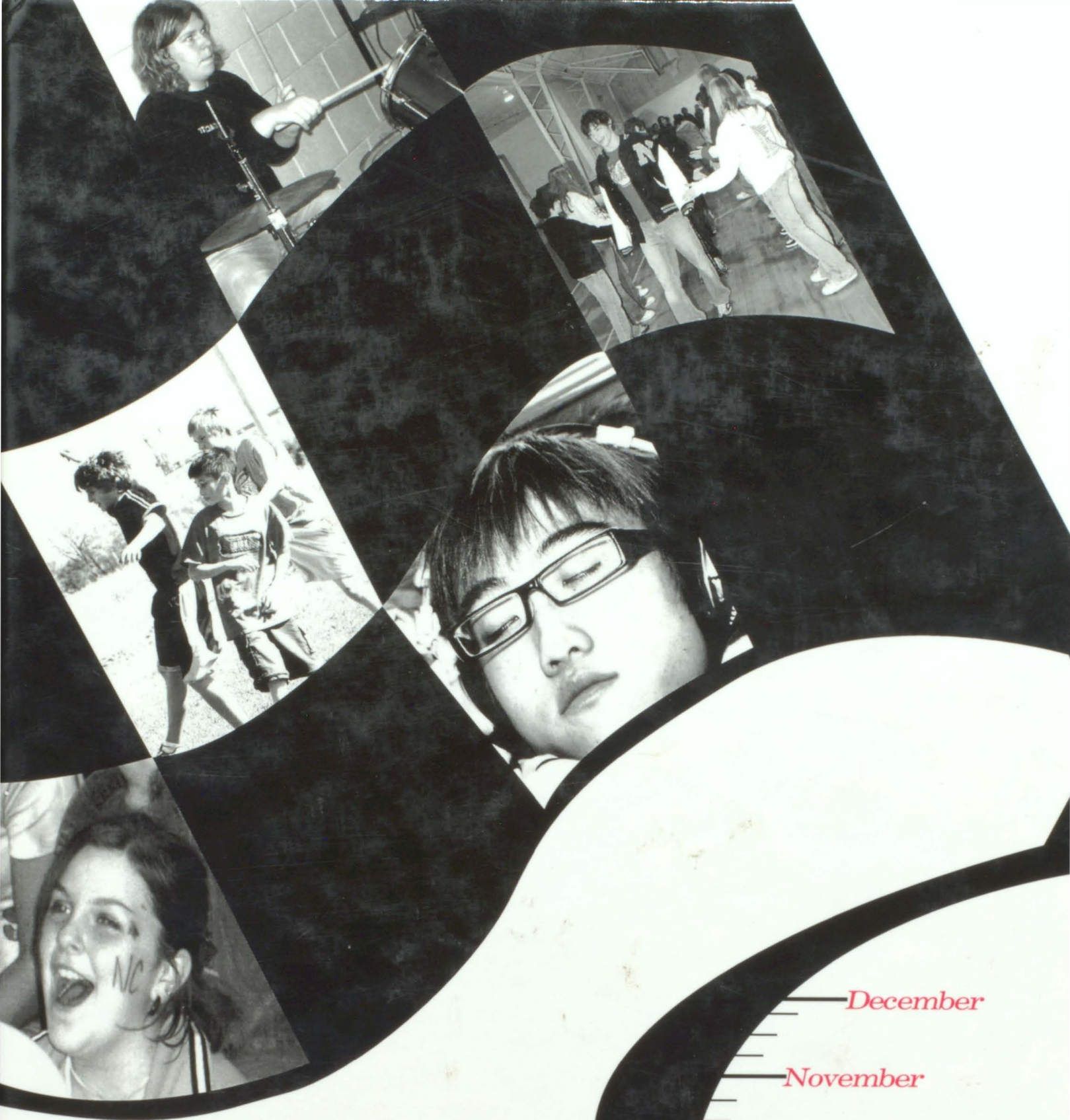

December

November

October

20

September

August